

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With a new minimum wage hike taking effect this week, what impact do you think it will have on the CNMI economy in general?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Crushing Blow

The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that child welfare officials overstepped their authority in seizing children from a polygamist sect.

NATION...Page 10



Complications

A stockpile of chemicals being used to disinfect an earthquake-shattered Chinese town ignited Thursday.

ASIA...Page 11



State Visit

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush will meet for the last time as leaders of their nations.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Businessman sues U.S. for alleged illegal \$5.6M tax. PAGE 2
2 Boy Scouts help out at San Vicente school. PAGE 5

Resolution vs CPA takeover rued



MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

Mental Health Awareness Month chair Evelyn Santos, NMPASI Greg Borja, Joy Oblea of Commonwealth Health Center Psychiatry, Joy De Luna of CHC Transitional Living Center, CGC/TLC's Angel Nimwes and Bernie Pangelinan gather for a photo during the Mental Health Fair at the Minachom Attdao Pavilion, Friday. The event culminates the whole month activity of Mental Health Awareness Month.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Fitial administration is disappointed the Legislature disapproved the governor's recent takeover of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

"We regret we are not able to persuade the Legislature to support this executive order," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said after the House of Representatives and Senate adopted a resolution rejecting an executive order that placed CPA under the Governor's Office for 120 days.

It is the Legislature's intent to invalidate the executive order through the resolution.

See RESOLUTION on Page 4



Saipan student takes stage at Bee

By LEO SHANE III
STARS AND STRIPES

lary," the 13-year-old said. "I do read a lot."

Mamaril, a 13-year-old from Grace Christian Academy on Saipan, was the Guam regional representative among the 288 spellers in the national capital this week for the

See SAIPAN on Page 4



Angela Faith Mamaril, a seventh-grader from Grace Christian Academy on Saipan, tries to remember how to spell "yeomanry" during the preliminary rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. The 13-year-old was the Guam regional representative at the competition.

LEO SHANE III/S&S

U.S. defense chief drops by Guam on way to Asia

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Guam National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Donald Goldhorn, left, greets Secretary of Defense Robert Gates after arriving at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam on Thursday, May 29, 2008.

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Guam Friday, his first stop in a weeklong Asia trip.

He is planning to take a tour of the military facilities here, including plans for a substantial increase in construction to house more than 8,000 additional Marines expected to relocate from Japan in 2014.

Gates will use the trip to reinforce the United States' See U.S. on Page 4

Yumul: I'm ready to resign

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ray N. Yumul says he is ready to resign if he gets the GOP nomination for delegate.

According to Yumul, lawmakers running for the new Washington position should resign not only to follow the law, but also to minimize election costs to the commonwealth.

The CNMI Constitution requires elected officials to resign once they have been certified as official candidates for another position.



See YUMUL on Page 4

Local

Businessman sues US for alleged illegal \$5.6M tax

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fulham LLC.

The U.S. government made an income tax assessment against Baldwin in the amount of \$5,131,076 for tax year 2002. Included in the adjustment to Baldwin's income for 2002 was the disallowance of a loss of \$5,603,892 from Sunset.

Koebel said this loss from Sunset was claimed by Baldwin as a pass-through loss originating from Fulham.

Koebel said Fulham is a partnership regulated by the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 and therefore its tax treatment is determined at the partnership level.

The lawyer disclosed that Fulham is currently the subject of a TEFRA investigation by the Internal Revenue Service office in Maitland, Florida.

"Defendant lacks authority to assess a deficiency against Baldwin that is attributable to Fulham until the completion of the TEFRA proceeding," Koebel asserted.

As such, he said, the assessment against Baldwin, as it relates to the disallowance of the loss of \$5.6 million originating from Fulham and passing

through to Baldwin via Sunset, "was void at its inception."

"Baldwin has attempted to resolve the matter administratively, and while defendant has admitted the assessment is premature and wholly illegal, the revenue agent assigned to the case, the collection service center and the Taxpayer Advocate all say they are either unwilling and or without power to correct the situation," Koebel said.

Despite this, the lawyer said, the U.S. government has expressed its intention to levy on Baldwin's property an amount of over \$7 million to satisfy the illegal and void assessment, totaling with associated penalties.

"Baldwin has no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable injury and will be without an adequate remedy at law unless defendant is enjoined both permanently and during the pendency of this action from collecting the illegal portion of this tax, and, pending the hearing on the preliminary injunction is temporarily restrained from collection of this tax," he added.

Designs for Guam quarter now online

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho yesterday released two designs for the Guam quarter prepared by artists of the U.S. Mint as part of the District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS) CIVIL
HOUSING) ACTION
CORPORATION,) NO.
Plaintiff,) 06-503
v-)
Melissa Duenas Diaz,)
Defendant.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 25, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 52, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 934 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 02 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4410, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 27, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of May, 2008

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



Program.

Each design can be voted on and the design with the highest amount of votes will be recommended to the U.S. Mint. Votes will be collected until June 14, 2008.

"I encourage all residents to take part in the selection process," Camacho said. "The Guam quarter will be a lasting symbol of our heritage and our people."

Camacho submitted the two design narratives selected from 59 submissions from the people of Guam.

The U.S. Mint has spent the past two months working closely with the Guam Quarter Dollar Program Design Evaluation and Selection Process Task Force in developing the designs that are emblematic

of Guam. Final designs for the Guam quarter are expected to be completed by July.

A provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (Section 622 Section

5112 of Title

31 United

States Code),

signed by

President Bush

on Dec. 26, 2007, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue a series of circulating commemorative quarter-dollar coins in 2009 with reverse designs emblematic of the U.S. Territories.

The image of George Washington as seen on the obverse of the 50 State Quarters coins will remain unchanged. The reverse of each quarter will be distinctly different with images emblematic of the District of Columbia and each of the U.S. territories. (PR)

IMPORTANT RECALL INFORMATION FOR PURCHASERS OF MIRACLE-GRO SHAKE 'N FEED PLUS WEED PREVENTER.

With our sincerest apologies, we must ask you to stop using this product immediately and return the unused portion to us. This product is being recalled because it has not been properly registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. Please do not return it to your retailer. Instead, refer to the simple procedure outlined below to return it directly to us, at no cost to you. We will send you a full refund, plus a coupon good toward your next purchase of Scotts® or Miracle-Gro® products. Please note: This recall applies only to Miracle-Gro® Shake 'n Feed® Plus Weed Preventer bearing the product code numbers listed below, and not to any other Miracle-Gro branded product.

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NMI master's degree candidates receive awards

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration held its annual awards ceremony for candidates for the master's degree in Business Administration and Public Administration.

The ceremony took place at the Guam Marriott Resort & Spa on Tumon Bay to recognize the individuals who will receive their master's degrees on June 1 at the UOG commencement ceremony. In addition to the various individual and program acknowledgements of achievement, an unexpected event took place.

Tan Hermana Fejerañ Faifao, mother of Dolores Faifao from Saipan, CNMI, had traveled to Guam to participate in her daughter's accomplishment on Sunday. Another graduating student from the CNMI was unable to attend the graduate awards ceremony that evening and Tan Hermana was asked by UOG president Robert A. Underwood to accept the awards certificate and deliver it to the graduating student in Saipan.

Tan Hermana was very much honored to assist a CNMI resident and accepted the award with Dr. Underwood, Dr. Borja-

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Tan Hermana Fejerañ Faifao of Saipan, CNMI accepts a Master of Public Administration award for CNMI resident or family members who were unable to be present. Tan Hermana was honored to receive the award as a familial elder of the Northern Marianas Islands. Front, left to right, Dr. Anita Borja-Enriquez and Tan Hermana Fejerañ Faifao. Rear, left to right, Drs. Ron McNinch, Ansito Walter, M. Claret Ruane, Karrie Perez, and Richard Colfax.

JOHN C. SALAS

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Man sentenced to 21 months for violating probation terms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
derdie_deltatore@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For violation of his probation, the federal court yesterday revoked the supervised release of a man convicted of robbery eight years ago.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Francisco R. Santos to spend 21 months in jail.

Upon release from imprisonment, Munson said Santos will be placed on 15 months of supervised release.

During his supervised release, Santos will be required, among other things, to perform 200 hours

of community work service.

The defendant will also be prohibited from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon.

Court records show that on Aug. 15, 2000, Santos was sentenced to 63 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for the offense of attempted interference with commerce by robbery.

Santos commenced his term of supervised release on March 14, 2005.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita DLG. Wonenberg asked for the revocation of the defendant's supervised release for al-

legedly violating the condition that he shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.

Wonenberg said that on Nov. 10, 2005, Santos notified her that he had been arrested and was detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

Wonenberg said the Attorney General's Office then charged Santos and two other co-defendants with conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary, theft, criminal mischief, and solicitation to commit burglary.

The probation officer said the charging information states that between July 29, 2005 and Aug. 1, 2005, the defendants unlaw-

fully entered the warehouse of the CNMI Water Task Force in Lower Base, from where they took supplies and equipment valued at \$61,181.

It was also alleged that the defendants caused damage to the Water Task Force's warehouse.

At yesterday's hearing, Santos admitted to the violation of his supervised release.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly Mc Callum recommended 21 months imprisonment and 15 months of supervised release.

Defense attorney Bruce Berline recommended a sentence at the low end of the sentencing guidelines.

RESOLUTION

From Page 1

lution, and consequently require the administration to let the board of directors control CPA. But the lawmakers say the state of emergency declaration may remain in effect until its June 13, 2008 expiration.

Reyes criticized the Legislature for being inconsistent. "They agree with the financial measures we've implemented, but they reject the executive order, which authorized the governor to do those very things. It doesn't make much sense," he said.

YUMUL

From Page 1

tion whose term begins before the end of their current term. The Constitution also requires a special election to replace a vacancy in the Legislature if more than one half of the term remains.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul and Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo have expressed their interest to run for delegate. Both just won fresh terms in the 2007 midterm election. Yumul has more than one

year left of his two-year term, and Crisostimo has more than three years remaining.

Crisostimo has said he would only resign if he won the congressional election. But Yumul said in an interview that Crisostimo's plan would be impractical, in addition to being potentially illegal.

"Why put the Commonwealth through the financial burden of holding another election to fill your vacancy? I hope other political aspirants will take that into consideration. Let's be reasonable," said Yumul.

He maintained that the administration had no intention to keep CPA under its wing for long. The takeover was only an interim measure driven by the urgent need to save CPA from a technical default on its airport revenue bond, he said.

The resolution argues that the governor could have averted a financial crisis at CPA by using his power to remove the members of the CPA board of directors for neglect of duty, and to appoint new members to the board.

"The Legislature stands ready to assist the governor in undertaking further action required or necessary to avert a technical default on CPA's revenue bond indenture within constitutional and statutory boundaries," the resolution stated.

On March 1, 1998, CPA entered into a \$20 million airport revenue bond indenture agreement with Bank of Guam as the bond trustee. This agreement requires CPA to make timely payments and to maintain a 1.25 revenue-to-bond payment ratio at all times during the duration of the bond. CPA, which still owes \$17 million, has been making punctual payments. But it has failed to meet the required debt ratio of 1.25.

To help meet the bond requirements, the governor has signed directives raising CPA rates, imposing austerity measures, and ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.

He said government lawyers are still studying whether sitting officials should resign in order to run for delegate. He said the constitutional provision was passed in the context of "midterm" senators running for another office such as governor or lieutenant governor. It is not clear how the constitutional requirement will apply to local officials campaigning for a federal position.

Six candidates have announced their bid for the delegate position: Yumul, Crisostimo, Commonwealth

Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, attorney Victorino Torres, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, and Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio.

Yumul, Torres, and Tenorio are expected to face off in the NMI Republican Party's primary, tentatively scheduled for July 12, 2008.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008.

The official period for submitting candidacy papers is from July 7 to August 6, 2008.

U.S.

From Page 1

commitment to the region, amid rocky relations with China, struggles with North Korea, and unease among the smaller allied nations.

Even as the United States sends humanitarian aid to cyclone-devastated Myanmar and the earthquake victims in China, Asian nations worry that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have made it difficult for the Pentagon to give the Pacific region the attention it requires.

"Everyone in the region recognizes that China is the huge new big player in all matters of Asian diplomacy, economics and military interactions," said

Kurt Campbell, who heads the Center for a New American Security. "The elephant in the room is the anxiety that many Asians feel—that we are preoccupied away from Asia during a period of enormous consequence."

While Gates has indeed focused on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, this will be his fourth lengthy trip to Asia during his 17 months as Pentagon chief. It is his second appearance at the Shangri-la Dialogue, a prestigious Asia-Pacific conference on international security.

In recent years Gates' predecessor, Donald Rumsfeld, used the forum to air U.S. criticism of China's military buildup, and to call for greater transparency by the communist giant. Gates, however, has been more conciliatory.

Senior defense and diplomatic officials traveling with Gates Wednesday said that China is making slow progress in shedding more light on the massive military expansion. And they said the Pentagon took specific steps this year to make this meeting less confrontational. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of Gates' speech to the conference.

In the last several years, the U.S. has released a highly critical report on China right before the Shangri-la conference. This year, officials purposely put the report out on time in March, to avoid that face-off.

This trip also comes just as the U.S. is providing earthquake relief to the Chinese, including sophisticated satellite

imagery of the area.

That cooperation is in contrast to several other, more confrontational episodes. In March the U.S. military mistakenly delivered fuses for long-range missiles to Taiwan, triggering a strong protest from Beijing. China opposes U.S. military relations with the small self-governing island that Beijing has claimed as its own since the sides split amid civil war in 1949.

The U.S. and China were also at odds over Beijing's shootdown of its failed weather satellite last year, which rained debris down into the Earth's atmosphere. Beijing then criticized the U.S. three months ago when the Pentagon shot down its own defunct satellite, amid concerns it could pose a danger if it fell in a populated area.

Guam which typifies America's plans to keep up a long and robust presence in the Asian Pacific.

The U.S. military plans to move the Marines and an equal number of their dependents to Guam from the southern Japanese island of Okinawa over the next decade. There are already about 7,000 Marines and their families here. The shift will leave about 10,000 Marines in Japan, said Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell.

That move had triggered a construction boom, including a new wharf, accommodations for additional ships, and an Army missile defense facility on Guam.

A senior defense official said the installation at Guam

LISS offers Summer School Program to more students

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By popular demand, the Ladera International School of Saipan, which originally offered its Summer School program to students between the ages 10 to 15, has now opened its Summer School program to students in grade levels from first to third and ninth and tenth in addition to the ongoing acceptance of fourth to eighth grade levels.

According to LISS director Wayne Pangelinan, limited slots are available and offered to the local community free of charge.

"With numerous requests from parents who wish to enroll their children in the lower grade levels as well higher grade levels, LISS decided to open up more slots to have our community avail of such programs," Pangelinan said.

The opportunities, he added, are on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is set for June 9-July 5 and July 5-Aug. 1, Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

The subjects that will be offered are Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, and English. Also, there will be afternoon programs offered for tutoring.

"Slots for students are capped and we are encouraging our local families to take advantage of what we are offering, but parents must act now and contact the school as some restrictions do apply," added Pangelinan.

"Because we are an international school, we wish to provide better opportunities for the community where each student can meet new acquaintances that we believe would be truly beneficial for the child's future," added Pangelinan.

This summer, LISS is expecting students from Korea, Japan, Russia, and local students. A mixture of international students from abroad ages 10 to 15 years old will be on island to partake in the LISS summer program.

For more information, contact LISS at 288-2006.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

tongue-twisting competition.

Top prize in the annual contest is \$37,500 in cash plus other goodies, plus the chance to be crowned America's best speller

live on ESPN. But along the way youngsters must navigate words from "agrostologist" to "zoism," most of which leave adults in the crowd scratching their heads.

Mamaril, who has lived on the island her whole life, said shifting from the Guam regional spelling contests to the national competition was a challenge, because the words became more obscure and complex.

She got tripped up in the second round on "yeoman," defined by bee officials as the small landed proprietors of the middle class.

"It was fun, but I'm pretty disappointed in myself," she said after being eliminated. "I should have gotten that."

Her parents, however, couldn't have been prouder. Not only did she earn a \$50 prize for competing, but the family got its first trip to Washington, D.C. because of her spelling skills.

"We don't know where it comes from," said her mother, Angelita. "We're not good spellers at all."

The winner of the competition will be crowned Friday night on ABC.

would give the United States a power base in a critical part of the world.

Guam's strategic location in the Pacific gives the U.S. a critical base from which to reach other countries in the region.

Campbell, who previously served as a senior Asia policy adviser at the Pentagon, said Gates has worked to repair some of Asia's anxieties stemming from the Rumsfeld era.

"He has managed to regain trust and confidence, and also present a much more welcome set of missions and messages to the broader world," Campbell said, predicting that Gates "will attempt to reknit the United States back into the fraying, little bit anxious Asian order. And that will be important."

2 Boy Scouts help out at San Vicente school

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie.delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Arthur Welch, 16, and Skylar Brown, 17, helped clean up the San Vicente Elementary School campus last Monday on their way toward completing their Eagle Projects.

With the help of CUC, Welch, together with the school's science class students, trimmed the branches off several flame trees that were already falling down due to decay.

They hauled off thousands of pounds of branches that were cut down. Afterwards, the school's principal asked to have the large branches placed on the side of the road to prevent cars from coming through the playground. The barrier blocked off cars from driving around blind turns where children often play at the school.

Welch also cemented over an erosion hazard at the school to prevent future erosion and make the area safer for children.

Welch, who has been a Boy Scout for five years now, estimates that he has already spent more than 40 hours on this project.

"It has been a lot of hard work, but it's fun to do hard work," Welch said. "I've learned skills like wood hauling, leadership, and how to follow up."

The project's completion

has allowed Welch to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. He will be the next one to have a Court of Honor, scheduled for the end of June.

Brown's project, meanwhile, was to improve the school's Agriculture Science Project by renovating and refurbishing an old water tank, which held Tilapia fish before it was damaged by a typhoon.

He organized the effort to drain the tank and remove the old pipe. He also repainted it. So far, Brown estimates he has spent nearly 70 hours working on his project.

"I wanted to help out the science instruction at the school," Brown said. "I felt this would impact the school not just temporarily but for a long time. Its impact would last."

Welch and Brown are both members of Troop 913, which is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

More than 30 volunteers helped out Welch and Brown to complete both projects.

"I could not be prouder of these scouts," said Eric Nelson, Troop 913 Scoutmaster. "They have put in countless hours researching their projects, organizing volunteers, and carrying out their plans in order to improve the community. ...These two scouts are wonderful examples for all of us."

Assistant Scoutmaster Val Welch played a large role in the projects and helped both boys organize and implement their plans.

Facts About Eagle Scout Award

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. Although many options are available to demonstrate proficiency in these areas, a number of specific skills are required to advance through the ranks—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. To advance, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges.

Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Troop 913 Boy Scouts Skylar Brown and Arthur Welch organized a community effort to beautify and improve San Vicente Elementary School Monday while completing their Eagle Scout Projects. Pictured from left, are Harrison Smith, Skylar Brown, Arthur Welch, Im-Bum Choo, Alex Kim, Manny Carulla, Don Cabrera, J.J. Brown, and Troop 913 Scoutmaster Eric Nelson. Other Boys Scouts who helped Brown and Welch with their project were Andres Keo, Reece Brown, Richard Defan, Tone Alforeza, Sam Conner, Jake Conner, Daniel Villegas, and Assistant Scoutmaster Val Welch.

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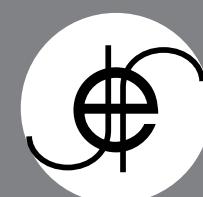
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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Clearly anti-immigrant

Call someone anti-immigrant for opposing public services for non-citizens, and chances are you'll be corrected. It's anti-illegal-immigrant, you'll be told, not anti-immigrant. To some extent, that's true. But the arcane rules of the new economic stimulus package, which keep tax rebates from going to many legal residents and even citizens, show that the realities of immigration policy are more complicated, and more hostile to the foreign born, than such an answer implies.

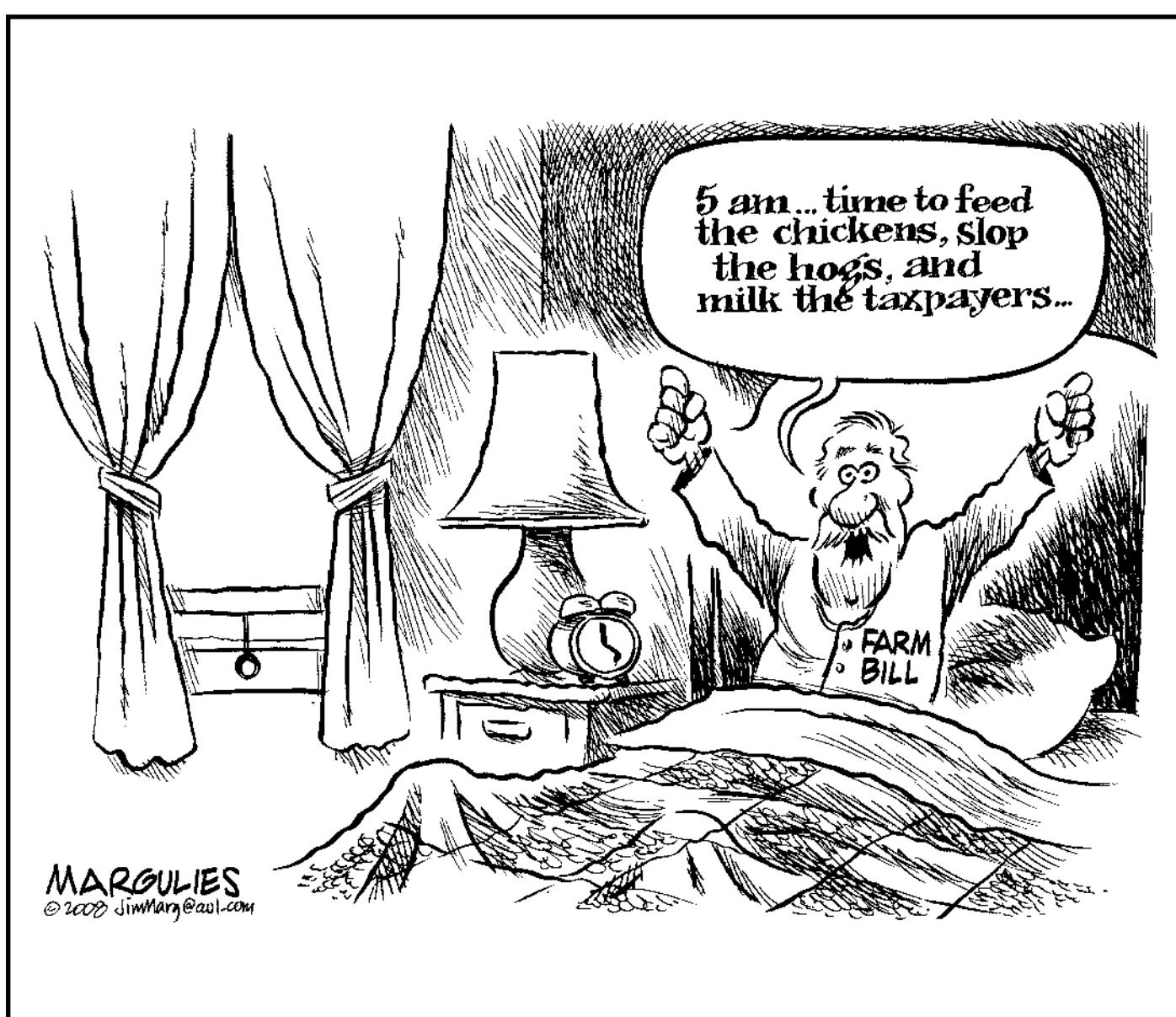
Under pressure from various groups—let's call them "groups concerned about immigration"—that opposed sending rebates to illegal immigrants, Congress wrote the package so that only people with Social Security numbers would get the money. That includes spouses of people who are legally employed in this country and, in a nasty extension, the employees themselves if they filed a joint tax return. In other words, say a citizen or legal immigrant files a joint return with someone who is here legally but doesn't have a work visa. That household won't get a tax rebate.

Why aren't the groups that are only anti-illegal-immigrant lobbying against this inequitable treatment?

Dan Stein, whose Federation for American Immigration Reform had pushed to keep the money from illegal immigrants, has no problem with how things worked out. Legal immigrants, he said, are "people whose connections to the society are more tenuous." Barbara Coe, who founded the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, finds the marriage provision unfair—unless, she said, the employee in the family was hired legally as "cheaper labor." Yet no one tries to stop this "cheaper labor" with supposedly tenuous connections from paying taxes.

Congress is hastening to fix the problem, but only for U.S. troops deployed overseas. That's not enough. This country should send a clear message that it will not engage in official reaction against its legal foreign-born residents. The spousal provision isn't just anti-illegal-immigrant, it is anti-immigrant, and it is unfair.

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Funeral duty: Witness to a humbling sacrifice

By WILLIAM TROY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Throughout this war, the Army has maintained the practice of assigning a general officer to attend the funeral of every soldier who falls in service to our country. I've had this duty many times. The intensity of each funeral leaves me struggling to understand the enormity of the sacrifice to which I have been a witness.

My first funeral is as clear in my mind as scenes from a familiar movie. Pfc. Christopher Kilpatrick died on June 20, 2005. I think everyone in town knew him. The residents of Columbus, Texas, filled every chair at the Knights of Columbus hall, and well-wishers lined the walls. His two sisters made a memorial video set to music. It was a moving tribute to the baby brother they fussed over; the toddler in cowboy boots; the youngster growing up hunting and fishing; the Eagle Scout; the basketball player letting a three-point shot fly; the kid with a big smile and the obligatory pickup truck.

I had to speak after that video, and I wasn't sure the words would come out. I blocked out the rest of the hall and tried to address his parents and sisters. I hope I did Christopher justice. We laid him to rest just outside of town. When I tried to tell my wife about it later, through my tears all I could say was, "Today was supposed to be his 19th birthday."

Every funeral is different. Each family copes in their own way. Our job is to oversee the military aspects of the services—taps, the firing of three rifle volleys, the folding and presentation of the flag. You comfort where you can and bear witness to the loss that the family, friends and community have suffered.

I have attended 23 funerals in many different states and, to my surprise, have never encountered an angry parent—only heartbroken ones who are intensely proud of their son or daughter. Grief is the crushing load these parents and spouses bear. Yet far more often than not they treat the military in attendance as family. They invite us to the receptions after the services, where they show us scrapbooks and introduce us to friends. They hug us and wish us a safe return to our units and families. They smile through their tears. I often get the feeling their sense of duty wills them through. I suspect that when the crowds have left and they are allowed to be alone, they collapse in grief and exhaustion.

During funerals, we typically read the tributes offered at the services conducted in theater. Nothing speaks to the families like the words of buddies and commanders. These people knew him or lived

with her, fought beside and loved them. When a tank commander writes about the loss of his driver, you realize that a tank crew is a single entity—a living, breathing organism. It, too, has lost an integral piece that made it whole. Voices from deployed units transcend the miles and speak with an eloquence I could never approach. I never try. I simply read what they wrote.

Though I haven't counted, I have not come across more than a handful of parents who were still together. Usually the separated parents support and comfort one another, but not always. I have shared a couple of funerals where the father left early in his son's life and returned only upon his death. At my second funeral, I was told that such an absent father was rumored to be around. We learned that the father had gone to the funeral home after visitation, but no one knew if he was going to show for the services. Because the awards and folded flag are presented to the next of kin, the military party had to know if he would be present. As we walked with the family to the service, I was told he was not present. Yet as I took my seat, there he was at the end of the family pew. He had slipped in at the last moment. When I presented the awards to him, he murmured a quiet thanks. At the grave site, as I watched him from a respectful distance, my heart broke for him as much as for the soldier's mother. He was saying his silent goodbye, and he was utterly alone.

My funeral duty has taught me a lot. The cynicism with which some people view politicians doesn't square with what I've seen. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Mike Gregoire, husband of the governor of Washington, attended just about every funeral I went to in their states. Absent the media or official entourages, they personally expressed condolences to grieving families. I've learned that the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle club may seem unconventional, but its members' patriotism and sincerity are undeniable.

And I've learned that war most often claims the lives of young kids who go out on patrol day after day, night after night. They go because they are good soldiers led by good sergeants. They go with a singular purpose: to not let their buddies down. Each soldier we lay to rest shared that goal. They kept faith with their comrades, even in the face of danger and death. That is the most humbling lesson of all.

Maj. Gen. William Troy is vice director for force structure, resources and assessment in the Joint Staff. In 2006-07 he served as deputy commanding general of I Corps at Fort Lewis, Wash. In 2005-06, he was DCG (Support) of 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An unwanted league

Apuzzle of globalization is that despite the astonishing growth in communication and information flows, Washington lives in a bubble, seeing the world through its own lens, being surprised and disappointed again and again when the world does not conform to U.S. expectations. President Bush's foreign policy is a study in the bubble approach, marked by the constant unsuccessful projection of ideas made in the USA onto unruly foreign realities. A major question for the next administration is whether it can move out of the bubble and more effectively connect the United States to the world.

In this regard, the declarations and debates about foreign policy in the presidential campaign so far are not especially reassuring. One of the most visible proposals, the calls by experts on both sides of the political aisle and by Sen. John McCain for the establishment of a League of Democracies to tackle the world's problems, is an example of continued thinking within the bubble.

A punishing side effect of Bush's policies abroad has been the despoilment of democracy promotion. Abuses of prisoners and detainees at U.S.-run facilities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere have undercut America's standing as a defender of human rights. The constant identification of democracy promotion with the Iraq intervention and other regime-change policies has besmirched the very concept in the eyes of many people around the world.

As a result, the last thing people in other countries are seeking from the next administration is a high-profile initiative tying democracy promotion to the global U.S. security agenda. The almost complete absence of any welcoming responses from outside the United States to the calls for a league underscores this fact.

For the dying, less can be more

Dying," a friend told me a while back, when I said that several elderly relatives were deteriorating and I didn't think they would last, "can take a very long time." She was right: New medicines, treatments and technology have created an extended and wholly new end-of-life phase, somewhere between "irreversible decline" and "at death's door."

The problem is that we have no guidelines for how to manage medical care during this time. Hospice care, which aims only to minimize suffering, is generally agreed to be the most humane option for people about to expire. But for those not technically dying, especially the old, the medical paradigm too often remains no different from what it is for the healthy: Doctors, out of instinct (and possibly fear of lawsuits), go all out to fix, fix, fix, and intimidated family members acquiesce. Patients and the people who love them come to find themselves in a nightmarish limbo—one that is physically and psychologically painful and hellishly expensive.

That's where my family has been living lately. In March, my 93-year-old widowed father-in-law, diagnosed with Alzheimer's but still living at home, suffered what a caregiver correctly judged to be a small stroke. A trip to the emergency room set the medical juggernaut in motion. He was hospitalized, given a CAT scan, catheterized after the discovery of a mild urinary tract infection and enlarged prostate, then sent to a nursing home for "rehab." Because he has no short-term memory and therefore can't follow directions, he continually tried to pull the catheter out, injuring himself. That required another hospitalization.

When he returned to the nursing home, concern about his pallor resulted in a blood test, which revealed anemia, which led to another hospitalization for a transfusion. Each trip further disoriented him. He slid out of bed and fractured his elbow. Once his arm was set, the search for the cause of his anemia continued. A scan showed

The idea of a league of democracies rests on the belief that democracies, by virtue of being democracies, have such common interests and perspectives that they will be able to act in unison on global problems. Yet most countries do not base their foreign policy primarily on the orientation of their political system. Instead, their actions reflect a constellation of diverse factors including regional identity, economic needs, historical traditions and religious outlook.

Consequently, democracies can and do disagree seriously on basic matters. The United States does not, as Jackson Diehl suggested (Washington Post op-ed, May 19), meet resistance at the United Nations to its policy initiatives only from nondemocratic states such as Russia and China. Most major developing-country democracies, such as Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico and South Africa, differ deeply with United States, for example, on the question of interventionism as well as on trade policy, the war on terrorism and much else. Attempting to bind them together into a league with the United States would not change that. Yet excluding these countries from a league would render it a hollow, hypocritical institution. Also, if memory serves, wasn't it some of Europe's most established democracies that opposed the United States on Iraq? Would they, too, be left out in the interest of a league amenable to approving future U.S. interventions?

Moreover, non-democracies are valuable partners on many pressing issues. Qatar oversaw the recent Lebanon negotiations. Egypt is brokering important talks between the clashing Palestinian sides. Russia will be crucial to any solution on the Iran nuclear issue. China is key to progress on Burma. How would a new international institution aimed at fostering international peace and security benefit

By THOMAS CAROTHERS

Special to The Washington Post



The writer is vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and directs its Democracy and Rule of Law Program.

by excluding all of these countries?

Proponents of a league only rarely mention the Community of Democracies, created by the United States in 2000, even though it closely parallels the proposed League of Democracies. They don't speak of it because the community has been a serious disappointment, producing much talk but little action. Its weak record is not, as some suggest, due to the fact that a few autocratic governments are included. Rather, it reflects the reality that most democracies are unwilling to follow the United States in challenging national sovereignty when it comes to pushing for democracy.

The next administration does need to relaunch U.S. democracy promotion and rebuild the legitimacy of U.S. global action generally. It should do so, however, by breaking out of the Washington bubble. This requires listening seriously to others and seeing the world as it actually is. If it does so, it will find no appetite for a grand new U.S.-led institution operating under an ideological mantle. Instead, it will find a world waiting for the United States to clean up its own act on the law and rights; pursue democracy promotion as a means of advancing broad principle rather than U.S. influence and strength; and seek partnerships, agreements and negotiations on the basis of shared interests with all countries looking to move forward on matters of common international concern.

By CAROL MITHERS

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Mithers is a freelance writer in Los Angeles.

which would require immediate major surgery—is higher. And is "another five years" of life really what you want to give a demented, wheelchair-bound 93-year-old?

With millions more Americans approaching old age—me among them—it's crucial that we actively decide what constitutes reasonable medical treatment in the last months or even years of life. Does it make sense for a society drowning in health-care costs, with 47 million uninsured, to throw the full expensive weight of technology at people who won't survive for long anyway because they're too sick or too old? (The fact that Medicare covered all my relatives' treatment gave their doctors even less incentive to hold back. The bills for just the last three of my aunt's hospitalizations came to nearly \$120,000.) Just as important, is it even humane?

A fledgling "slow medicine" movement, made up of physicians who advocate comfort over aggressive treatment at the end of life, offers one model. And my family too finally understood that we could say no. My aunt, now medically stable, gets her daily oxygen and breathing medications, but if she has another crisis, she'll only be kept comfortable while she slips away. My husband declined to have his father undergo a colonoscopy (or any other future diagnostic tests); instead, he has been accepted for hospice care. Neither will spend his or her remaining time bouncing in and out of hospitals, being stuck, poked, prodded and screened. I'm glad that they—and we—are on this more merciful road. I'm only sorry that finding it took this long.

Give my stimulus check to the rich

By BARBARA GARSON

SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dear President Bush and Laura, My husband and I have an economic disagreement that has turned personal. We think you can help us. We filed a joint tax return and are expecting a \$1,200 check under your plan to jump-start the economy. Here's the problem: My husband wants to spend the money; I want to send it back.

Like you, we believe that the government should not fiddle with the economy. We know that you only yielded under pressure to this so-called stimulus. My husband says you've managed to make it the most free-market stimulus possible. Rather than make a centralized, socialistic decision to repair bridges or some such thing, you have allowed each of us to design our own individual stimulus package. My husband is for exercising the right to democratic spending that

you have preserved for him by buying a wood chipper.

I would like to exercise my choice by sending the check back to the Internal Revenue Service so that it can redirect the money to someone in a much higher tax bracket. Those are the people who invest their money to create jobs for the rest of us. I wholeheartedly support your view that people with money should get more money.

We are gratified that you have been true to that philosophy throughout your administration. If the results have not produced the universal prosperity we expected, that is only because you were stopped before you could transfer all the money to the rich.

My husband says that because I believe investors grow the economy, I should put my \$600 in the stock market. But what will I accomplish if I lose it all? My husband says: "Real investors win what you lose. So if the government won't transfer it to them directly, then you can give it to them by losing big." That is the most

ridiculous reasoning I've ever heard. It shows that he's not taking my concerns seriously.

Therefore, I would like you, President Bush, to arrange to have our refunds sent separately and to instruct someone at the IRS to forward my half directly to an economy-building investor -- perhaps you or the vice president can suggest someone suitable from among your personal acquaintances.

Equally important, I need marital advice from Laura. How do you manage to make your wise and busy husband take your viewpoints as seriously as he obviously does?

Thank you both for your help,

Mrs. Barbara Garson

Garson is the author of *All the Livelong Day: The Meaning and Meaning of Routine Work*.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75° ▲86° ▼76° ▲86° ▼76° ▲86° ▼76° ▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	T>Showers	▲88 ▼77
Palau	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	T'Storms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	T'Storms	▲83 ▼72
Kosrae	T'Storms	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88 ▼68
Hong Kong	T'Storms	▲87 ▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼74
London	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼56
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74 ▼58
Manila	T'Storms	▲89 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲66 ▼53
Miami	T>Showers	▲88 ▼77
New York	T'Storms	▲77 ▼62
Osaka	Cloudy	▲73 ▼59
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼58
Pusan	Sunny	▲80 ▼58
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼59
Salem	Showers	▲71 ▼47
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲77 ▼57
Tokyo	Rain	▲70 ▼61
Washington, DC	T'Storms	▲84 ▼63

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Saipan Harbor		Today	5:46AM	6:44PM	Today
3:47AM Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet	Sunday	5:46AM	6:44PM	Sunday
10:51AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	Monday	5:46AM	6:44PM	Monday
5:17PM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet	Tuesday	5:46AM	6:45PM	Tuesday
10:33PM Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet	Wednesday	5:46AM	6:45PM	Wednesday

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily
CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6
CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota
CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily
CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya
NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6
CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6
CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7
CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror
CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily
PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
	FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115		

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleal) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am

English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm

Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm

Mid-week Service: 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm

Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm

Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30pm (English): 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30pm (Tagalog): 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church

Filipino Congregation
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 31, 1999

House eyes ban on toy guns

Concerned over proliferation in the market of toy guns resembling the real ones, the House of Representatives is considering a legislation that will ban the sale of the products from store shelves and forbid their importation in efforts to deter crime on the island. Rep. Malua T. Peter has sponsored the measure to make selling and importation of the toy guns a criminal offense in the CNMI punishable of up to one year imprisonment or \$100 to \$1,000 fine.

Young to hold oversight hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) has said he was pleased that some members of the Democratic leadership are now supporting proposed reforms in the Mariana Islands regarding labor and safety laws on the American islands in the Western Pacific. Young, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Resources which has jurisdiction over U.S. territories, informed the Committee's Ranking Democrat, U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), that the Committee will be conducting an oversight hearing on the issue later this year.

Cepeda seeks CNMI-US dialog

Joining the bandwagon of opposition to the continuous attacks against the Northern Marianas, a legislator on Friday called on President Clinton to hold a mutual dialogue with island officials in efforts to bridge differences which have harmed relations between CNMI and Washington. Rep. Frank Cepeda, chair of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations, also denied accusations leveled against the Commonwealth by various interest groups in the mainland as well as some U.S. lawmakers.

MAY 31, 2000

Tanapag clinic stops operation

The Tanapag Health Clinic has temporarily stopped the screening of village residents in connection with polychlorinated biphenyl contamination with the departure of four U.S.-based doctors. "We were supposed to be done with the medical testing by then but there were more people who came to the clinic than we have initially expected," said Dr. Richard Brostrom, chief of the medical team.

Legislature moves to oust OIA's rep in NMI

Because of his alleged role in partisan political activities and smear campaign against the CNMI while in office, the Office of Insular Affairs liaison officer here is facing condemnation by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Jeffrey Schorr could be declared persona non grata who must be removed from the Commonwealth under a resolution that the lower house is expected to approve today or in the next few weeks.

GOP sets deadline for 2001 election hopefuls

Republican members who have intention to seek elective posts in the November 2001 general elections have until June 30, 2000 to submit their letter of intent to the party's central committee, according to GOP Chair Joseph Reyes. He said those who have handed in their letter before the deadline will be given acknowledgment receipt from the committee to ensure order.

MAY 31, 2001

Rebate checks out now

The finance department has started mailing out rebate checks yesterday as it anticipates to complete the release of over 5,000 tax refunds and rebates within the week. Finance officials said the department has processed the first batch of 5,523 rebate checks amounting to \$5.3 million. Taxpayers who have filed their income tax returns by March 15 will get their rebate checks first.

Ban on entry of meat imports lifted

The United States Department of Agriculture yesterday lifted restrictions on the entry of meat products from 10 countries to the CNMI following the completion of risk assessment report performed by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services. In a memorandum sent to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, USDA-APHIS Director Mitchell Nelson said meat products from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden can now enter the CNMI and Guam.

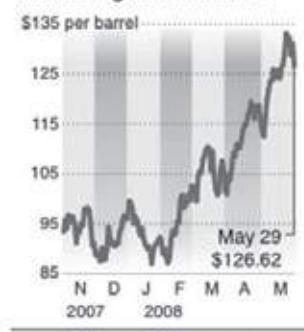
Business

Oil prices drop to near \$126 a barrel

Oil prices drop

Crude oil prices for July delivery fell \$4.41 Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange before settling at \$126.62.

NYMEX light sweet crude



SOURCE: Department of Energy AP

which hit a three-month high against the yen overnight. In Asia currency trading in Tokyo, the dollar has held near 105.50 yen, while the euro is trading around \$1.55.

Investors who buy commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation when the dollar is falling tend to sell when the greenback strengthens. Also, a stronger dollar makes oil more expensive to investors dealing in foreign currencies.

Survey: Americans make 41 million fewer air trips

WASHINGTON (AP)—

Nearly half of American air travelers would fly more if it were easier, and more than one-fourth said they skipped at least one air trip in the past 12 months because of the hassles involved, according to an industry survey.

The Travel Industry Association, which commissioned the survey released Thursday, estimated that the 41 million forgone trips cost the travel industry \$18.1 billion—including \$9.4 billion to airlines, \$5.6 billion to hotels and \$3.1 billion—and it cost federal, state and local authorities \$4.2 billion in taxes in the past 12 months.

When 28 percent of air travelers avoided an average of 1.3 trips each, that resulted in 29 million leisure trips and 12 million business trips not being taken, the researchers estimated.

The survey results did not address whether travelers chose alternate transportation to pursue any of the journeys they didn't take by plane. The association estimated overall travel industry revenue at \$740 billion.

Roger Dow, president and CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based association, said the research "should be a wake-up call to America's policy leaders that the time for meaningful air system reform is now."

"The air travel crisis has hit a tipping point—more than 100,000 travelers each day are voting with their wallets by choosing to avoid trips," Dow said in a statement.

Stocks jump after decline in oil

NEW YORK (AP)—

Stocks rose for the third straight session Thursday as oil prices fell sharply and the government reported that the economy grew last quarter at a faster pace than previously estimated.

A rising dollar helped push crude oil prices down by more than \$4 per barrel, the biggest single-session drop since March.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 52.19, or 0.41 percent, to 12,646.22. The Dow was up nearly 133 points at its high of the session.

Broader stock indicators also rose after trading mixed early in the session. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 7.42, or 0.53 percent, to 1,398.26, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 21.62, or 0.87 percent, to 2,508.32.

Stocks could be helped Friday by a report from Dell Inc., which posted stronger-than-expected fiscal first-quarter earnings and revenue after the closing bell Thursday. The stock rose more than 9 percent in after-hours electronic trading.

Nation

Court: Sect children should be returned to parents

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—In a crushing blow to the state's massive seizure of children from a polygamist sect's ranch, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Thursday that child welfare officials overstepped their authority and the children should go back to their parents.

The high court affirmed a decision by an appellate court last week, saying Child Protective Services failed to show an immediate danger to the more than 400 children swept up from the Yearning For Zion Ranch nearly two months ago.

"On the record before us, removal of the children was not warranted," the justices said in their ruling issued in Austin.

The high court let stand the appellate court's order that Texas District Judge Barbara Walther return the children from foster care to their parents. It's



AP
Martha Emack, one of the parents from the Yearning For Zion Ranch at Eldorado, Texas, approaches a news conference outside the Texas Capitol Thursday, May 29, 2008, in Austin, Texas.

Nebraska storm derails train, damages buildings

AURORA, Neb. (AP)—A storm bearing hail and possible tornadoes struck central Nebraska Thursday night, damaging businesses, derailing train cars, tearing down trees and disrupting power to thousands.

A possible tornado touched down near Aurora, about 70 miles west of Lincoln, damaging a few businesses and damaging at least one house on the outskirts of town.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries.

Tornadoes were also reported

in Kearney, about 60 miles west of Aurora, where 90 rail cars were blown off the tracks outside the city limits. There were reports of downed trees and power lines throughout Kearney, and reports of damage on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus and at a county fairgrounds.

Initial reports from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency indicated several dozen homes were damaged in both Aurora and Kearney.

Obama distances self from another clergyman



**C H I -
C A G O**
(AP)—

D e m -
o c r a t i c

presidential candidate Barack Obama said Thursday that he was "deeply disappointed" by a supporter's sermon at his church that mocked Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, a Chicago activist, also apologized for last Sunday's sermon at Obama's church, in which he said Clinton's eyes welled with tears before the New Hampshire primary because she felt "entitled" to the Democratic nomination.

not clear how soon that may happen, but the appellate court ordered her to do it within a reasonable time period.

The ruling shatters one of the largest child-custody cases in U.S. history. State officials said the removals were necessary to end a cycle of sexual abuse at the ranch in which teenage girls were forced to marry and have sex with older men, but parents denied any abuse and said they were being persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Every child at the ranch run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the west Texas town of Eldorado was removed; half were 5 or younger.

CPS officials said they were disappointed by the ruling but would take immediate steps to comply.

"We are disappointed, but

we understand and respect the court's decision," the agency said in a written statement.

FLDS elder Willie Jessop said parents were excited about the court's decision but would remain apprehensive until they get their children back.

"We're just looking forward to when little children can be in the arms of their parents," he said. "Until you have your children in your hands, there's no relief. But we have hope."

Standing outside the Texas Supreme Court building with attorneys for the families, Martha Emack, mother of a 2-year-old and a 1-year-old, echoed that sentiment.

"I'm happy (when) all the children are back to their mothers and we're home," said Emack, whose children have been staying at an Austin children's shelter.

ACROSS THE NATION

10 states act to stop teacher sex abuse

Ten states have taken action in recent months to crack down on sexually abusive teachers following a stream of arrests and reports that have documented the problem of educators victimizing students. Governors, state education officials and lawmakers have led the push for new measures, which include tougher penalties for teachers who abuse students, punishment for administrators who fail to properly oversee their faculty, and an effort to train an entire state's corps of teachers to recognize potential abusers in their midst. At least four more states are still considering legislation. (AP)

Recognition of gay marriages in NY faces battle

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Religious and social conservatives vowed Thursday to fight Gov. David Paterson's directive requiring state agencies to recognize gay marriages performed legally elsewhere, saying it flouts traditional values and is a big step toward legalizing same-sex unions in New York. "The definition of marriage predates recorded history," said New York State Catholic Conference Executive Director Richard E. Barnes. "No single politician or court or legislature should attempt to redefine the very building block of our society in a way that alters its entire meaning and purpose." Paterson issued a memo earlier this month saying that gay New Yorkers who marry where it is legal will have the right to share family health care plans, receive tax breaks by filing jointly, enjoy stronger adoption rights and inherit property.

Anti-abortion measure OK'd for Colo. ballot

DENVER (AP)—A proposed state constitutional amendment defining a fertilized human egg as a person was certified Thursday for the November ballot, moving Colorado a step closer to an election battle over abortion rights. Secretary of State Mike Coffman said backers of the proposal turned in an estimated 103,000 valid signatures, far more than the 76,000 required. Kristi Burton, the prime mover behind the measure, said her group, Colorado for Equal Rights, will target voters who personally oppose abortion but don't want to impose their views on others. Burton said polling shows those voters make up about 20 percent of the electorate.

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Asia

Chemical fire, rain hamper China quake recovery work

CHENGDU, China (AP) -- A stockpile of chemicals being used to disinfect an earthquake-shattered Chinese town ignited Thursday and injured scores of soldiers doing relief work, adding to a day of problems for urgent recovery efforts.

Heavy rain also added to the misery of crowds of homeless survivors living in tents or lean-tos, and hampered troops rushing to drain a quake-spawned lake before it floods a valley filled with villages.

The chemical fire took place in the town of Leigu, in devastated Beichuan county. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that more than 800 people were evacuated to avoid a cloud of dense chlorine gas

bleach powder had ignited in a storage building. CCTV footage showed soldiers spraying down the building and extinguishing the threat, and then several soldiers who were gasping for air being treated by medics.

"The soldiers have inhaled the fumes, it has affected their bodies, and they are in the military hospital now," said a soldier, identified by CCTV as the leader of the fire crew. His name was not given. He said 61 soldiers were injured. Xinhua reported that four people were injured. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the different injury tolls.

It was not immediately clear why the bleach ignited, though substances in it can turn explosive

the final tally to surpass 80,000.

But many children have been reunited with their families, Xinhua reported Friday. The number of unclaimed children in Sichuan province has fallen to about 1,000 compared to more than 8,000 in the first couple of days after the May 12 earthquake, Xinhua said.

The rain made conditions worse for the 5 million people left homeless by the quake, increasing the threat of more landslides.

"Before the earthquake the mountains here were completely covered with trees and it was green everywhere. You could not see any naked rock in the mountains," said Zhou Liqiong, resident of Hanwang town. "Now the continuous landslides



A mother cries as she holds a photo of her daughter who was killed in an earthquake, as she stands in the ruins of the Fuxin No. 2 Primary School in Wufu, in China's southwest Sichuan province Thursday May 29, 2008. caused by the blaze.

As in many destroyed towns, officials have been spraying disinfecting bleach on streets and rubble in an effort to prevent disease breakouts. Thousands of people are still missing and their bodies could be buried in the rubble, while rats and other scavengers have been reported in some places.

But one expert said the spraying of bleach on rubble has little effect except perhaps a psychological one for victims.

"It really doesn't make much sense because it's not doing much good," said Claude de Ville de Goyet, the retired emergency preparedness director for the Pan American Health Organization and a consultant who works disaster sites. "It's cosmetic."

He said that even if there were a cholera outbreak - which there is not - spraying the surface of rubble would not help. Bleach does work well to disinfect water.

State-run television showed smoke billowing over Leigu and reported that a stockpile of

if heated or mixed with hydrocarbons such as those in diesel fuel.

Rain, meanwhile, grounded helicopters helping in operations to drain the Tangjiaoshan lake, which formed above Beichuan town after a quake-triggered landslide blocked a river.

With roads to the area cut off, helicopters have airlifted 40 heavy earth-moving machines to dig drainage channels. Heavy rain prevented aircraft from flying Thursday, CCTV reported, though workers were able to continue clearing debris.

The place. You can see the naked mountains everywhere."

Some 158,000 people downstream from Tangjiaoshan lake have been evacuated, and officials have pledged to warn other nearby residents in case of flooding so they have time to flee. Troops have sealed off Beichuan to the public.

Of 34 lakes created by the earthquake, 28 are at risk of bursting, Xinhua said.

The military released some details of the massive recovery effort. Lu Dengming, commander for the area around Chengdu, the capital of hardest-hit Sichuan province, said more than 2,500 miles of damaged roads have been repaired and 70 million cubic feet of ruins cleared, Xinhua reported.

Some 178,000 troops, militia and reservists were taking part in the operation, and had delivered more than 510,000 tons of relief materials by land and air, including tents and prefabricated houses and schools, Lu said.

World

6.2 quake shakes Iceland



A building damaged by an earthquake is seen near the town of Selfoss in Iceland, Friday, May 30, 2008. AP

REYKJAVIK, Iceland

(AP)—A strong earthquake shook southern Iceland on Thursday, injuring at least 15 people as it rocked buildings in the capital, touched off landslides and forced evacuations in outlying towns, officials and local media said.

Government officials reported that 15 to 30 people were injured, none of the seriously, when the quake hit near Selfoss, 30 miles southeast of the capital of Reykjavik. They

were taken to a local health center for treatment.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 6.2 and hit at 3:46 p.m.

Sharp aftershocks were feared over the next few hours in the southwest of the country, and police traveled around the nearby town of Hveragerdi, 28 miles east of Reykjavik, with a bullhorn, advising residents to stay outdoors.

An Associated Press Television News cameraman in Hveragerdi reported at least

two aftershocks, and said residents were beginning to pitch tents outside because they were not allowed to return home.

"It was a horrific experience. Everything inside my house is ruined," Sveinn Ingvarson, a 51-year-old construction worker, told Iceland's Channel 2 from the town.

Adalheidur Gudmundsdottir, the 52-year-old director of nursing at a clinic in Selfoss, said many of her patients were frightened by the tremors.

Pressure increases on Israeli PM

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Prime Minister Ehud Olmert suffered another blow Thursday when a key rival for power in his political party suggested the embattled leader should be replaced because of a widening corruption investigation.

With the comments from Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Olmert now encounters an open rebellion in his Kadima party, making it increasingly unlikely

he can survive the public uproar that has gripped the country since a key witness described illicit cash payments to the luxury-loving Israeli leader.

Livni's comments came a day after Ehud Barak, the powerful defense minister, called for Olmert to go and threatened to pull his Labor Party, a key coalition partner, out of the government and force new elections if he didn't comply.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq's appeals stir little Arab response

UPPLANDS VASBY, Sweden (AP)—Iraqi officials appealed Thursday to escape nearly \$100 billion in debt and war reparations - owed mostly to Arab nations still reluctant to forgive Iraq's belligerence during Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq's plea for debt relief - made before nearly 500 delegates at a U.N. conference to assess Iraq's reconstruction - was echoed at the highest diplomatic levels including U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. But Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki received no firm commitments, and two key neighbors - Saudi Arabia and Kuwait - sent only low-level envoys to the meeting outside Stockholm.

In Paris, Putin details new role as prime minister

PARIS (AP)—Vladimir Putin made his first major foray abroad as Russia's prime minister Thursday, insisting that managing the economy - rather than ensuring human rights are respected - is now his main job. While Putin is no longer Russia's president, he didn't hesitate to use a visit to Paris

to address the issue of human rights, which he said was no longer part of his official bailiwick. "The government handles the economy," he said. Dealing with human rights "is the area of competency of the president," he said before raising questions about that issue in France.

US: Report increases Iran concerns

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The chief U.S. delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency said evidence described by the nuclear watchdog Thursday increased concerns that Iran had tried to make nuclear weapons. The documents detailed by IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen were provided to the agency by board member nations for its investigation into allegations that Iran disguised research and testing on a nuclear arms program as peaceful nuclear activities. One document dated January-February 2004 is linked to high explosives testing of the kind that can be used to detonate a nuclear device. Others dated January and March 14 of that year are part of purported evidence that Iran worked on designs of a missile re-entry vehicle that is normally a part of a nuclear delivery system.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Arroyo-Bush summit in June

White House readies red carpet for US ally

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO,
LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush will meet for the last time as leaders of their nations when she goes to Washington and New York next month for a working visit, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced Thursday.

Bunye said Arroyo's packed schedule on June 23-29 would include meetings with Bush, other key US government officials, members of the US Congress, Filipino veterans of World War II, leaders and members of the Filipino-American community, business leaders, investors and environmental groups.

During her visit, Arroyo will also push the candidacy of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santi-

ago, her staunch political ally, for a seat in the International Court of Justice.

Bush is to step down in January 2009, and Arroyo completes her term in 2010.

The two leaders last met for a brief lounge chat on Sept. 8, 2007, at the opening of the 2007 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Arroyo traveled to the United States that same month to attend the Clinton Initiative Forum on Sept. 26 and the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 28.

The meeting between the Philippine and US leaders was "mutually discussed and agreed [upon]," according to Bunye.

"In Washington, President Bush will welcome President Arroyo to the White House for discussions on issues of great interest to the Philippines and the United States, particularly on ways to further strengthen

our long-standing and historic bilateral relations," Bunye said.

He said Arroyo was expected to exchange views with Bush "on a broad range of issues, including food security, protection of the environment, the Philippine defense reform program, counterterrorism, nonproliferation, ASEAN's community building, human rights, Burma (Myanmar) and global trade."

Bunye said Arroyo would take the opportunity to thank Bush for his administration's support for Filipino war veterans through the US Veterans Office in Manila and the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

"[She] will also express her hope for a meaningful resolution to remaining issues relating to our veterans," he said.

As well, Arroyo will personally thank the US Senate for its "historic" 96-1 vote for the

Veterans Benefits bill, which will benefit Filipino war veterans, he said.

More meetings

Bunye said Arroyo would also meet with the Philippines-US Friendship Caucus, a group composed of members of the US House of Representatives particularly interested in strengthening relations between the two countries.

She will have a chance to meet with some US Cabinet officials when she holds consultations with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

(In March, the MCC granted the Philippines compact eligible status, opening the door to large grants for sustainable growth. The Philippines was selected after passing objective indicators in the areas of governing justly, investing in its citizens and encouraging economic freedom, Bunye said.)

Free health screening tomorrow

The officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General and Philippine Overseas Labor Office –Saipan, in cooperation with volunteer Filipino medical team and Hardt Eye Clinic, will conduct a free health screening for Filipino workers on island tomorrow, June 1, (Sunday) from 7:00 o'clock in the morning to noon at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (former Nauru Building) in Susupe.

Medical services will include a vision check-up and determination of blood pressure and sugar level.

Filipino workers who would like to have their blood sugar tested must refrain from eating and drinking water and any fluids from midnight of May 31, 2008 up to the time of their scheduled check up the following day. (PR)



ORDER OF SIKATUNA

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, confers the Order of Sikatuna, one of the Philippines' highest awards, to Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda during formal ceremony Wednesday May 28, 2008 at Malacanang Palace in Manila. Wirajuda was cited for his role in the peace process between the Government and the Muslim separatists in southern Philippines. Assisting at right is his wife Hendrawati.

Filipino WWII veterans hope Congress will approve benefits

By MARK NIESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Soldiers from the Philippines who fought beside Americans during World War II hope their long wait for veteran benefits

will soon be over.

"We deserve to get a benefit for our sacrifices," said 84-year-old Leon Tabaniag. "We are now in our twilight, and we want to get a benefit before we move on."

About 50 Filipino veterans met with U.S. Sen. Daniel

Akaka on Tuesday in hopes that Congress will finally treat them the same as American fighters for their wartime contributions.

A vote on the proposal is pending in the U.S. House after the U.S. Senate passed it in April. The House is expected to take action on it this year.

"It's more honorable to be receiving a pension that to be receiving no help from the government," said 83-year-old Feliciano Barroga Jr.

Filipinos fought against Japan during World War II as part of

the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East. The U.S. controlled the Philippines as a commonwealth during WWII and was responsible for the islands' foreign affairs and national defense.

When the Philippines became an independent country in 1946, Congress took away the pension benefit.

The cheering veterans gathered at a federal government building in Honolulu to thank Akaka, himself a World War II veteran, for helping to get the measure approved in the Senate.

Kuwait's ruler mulls Arroyo's appeal to spare woman's life

MANILA, Philippines—The Kuwaiti ruler is considering the appeal of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to spare the life of Filipina maid May Vecina, whose death sentence by hanging has been upheld by the high court of the Gulf country.

Vice President Noli De Castro earlier this month handed to Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah President Arroyo's second letter asking for forgiveness and the commutation of Vecina's death sentence, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

"The Emir told the Vice President that he would give President Arroyo's appeal his very serious consideration," DFA said.

Vecina was convicted of murder and two counts of frustrated murder and was sentenced to hang by the Kuwait Court of Cassation for killing her employer's youngest son Salem Sulaiman Al-Otaib on January 6 last year, as well as attempting to kill his 13-year-old brother Abdulla by slitting his throat and stabbing his 17-year-old sister Hajar.

The court ruling is final and only needs to be signed by the emir to be implemented. (INQUIRER.net)

LABOR FRONT

Part-time work for alien workers

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Are alien workers still allowed to work part-time under Public Law 15-108 or the new Labor reform law?

A: An employer may hire a foreign national worker part-time for no more than 32 hours a month. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a notice of part-time hiring on the standard form provided by Labor must be filed before any work by the alien worker begins.

The Regulations state that an employer who has signed an approved employment contract with a foreign national worker may not hire that alien worker for part-time casual work. An employer may not hire an alien worker for part-time casual work for any type of work done by regular employees of the business.

Q: When can the Labor director deny a notice of part-time hiring?

A: A notice of part-time hiring may be denied by the Labor director if it appears that the part-time employment is being used to circumvent the requirement of full-time work under an approved employment contract, a non-business employer is not financially responsible, or the part-time work is otherwise in violation of Commonwealth law.

The Regulations states that a denial, however, may be appealed to the Labor Administrative Office within 15 days.

Q: What will happen if a person employs an alien worker for part-time work without notifying Labor?

A: According to the Regulations, any person who employs a foreign national worker for part-time work without first filing a notice with Labor shall be barred from further employment of foreign national workers in any capacity. That person shall be assessed a fee equal to all of the fees applicable to an approved employment contract. An order of debarment and an assessment of fees may be appealed to the Administrative Hearing Office on the standard form provided by Labor.

The Regulations also state that a notice filed with Labor in connection with part-time work is good until the foreign national worker's status as eligible to remain in the CNMI under an approved employment contract changes.

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RP official blasts ASEAN for slow response to disasters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine chief justice criticized the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Wednesday as “impotent” for its slow response to the Myanmar cyclone and surging rice prices that he said could become a regional security threat.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno said the 10-member ASEAN’s policy of deciding by consensus has hobbled it in responding rapidly to crises, including the May 2-3 Cyclone Nargis that killed 78,000 people and left 56,000 missing in military-ruled Myanmar, according to government figures.

“The disaster has become an aid crisis that exposes the impotence of the ASEAN in assisting a member country knocked down on its knees,” Puno told an ASEAN conference in Manila attended by academics and diplomats.

ASEAN failed to rapidly act in the crucial first few days after the cyclone because of the lack of an effective regional mechanism to deal with such contingencies, Puno said.

Puno noted that ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan called for a “coalition of mercy,” but it took several more days before the bloc managed to agree on a way to help cyclone victims.

“While the body bags kept on piling in Myanmar, the coalition cannot immediately come to life given the ASEAN way of slow-motion intergovernmental consultation and consensus-taking process,” he said.

ASEAN only managed to organize an emergency meeting of its foreign ministers on May 19—more than two weeks after Nargis struck—after getting Myanmar’s consent. The ministers agreed to set up a task force to handle distribution of foreign aid to more than 2 million cyclone victims and hold a donor conference with the United Nations.

ASEAN has long been hamstrung by a bedrock rule of non-interference in each other’s affairs and a policy of making decisions by consensus. It has particularly been criticized for failing to nudge member Myanmar to move toward democracy, release pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest and improve its dismal human rights record.

Police kill man in hostage drama

LUBAO, Philippines (AP)—Police killed a man who had allegedly fatally shot one of his hostages in a bus Thursday in a northern Philippine town.

Superintendent Edwin Mangaliman—police chief of Lubao township in northern Pampanga province who acted as hostage negotiator—said he tried to subdue the gunman, but the gunman fought back.

An officer had to shoot the hostage-taker as they grappled over the gunman’s weapon, Mangaliman said.

Police decided to make the move because the gunman appeared unstable and his “mood often changed” and could harm more hostages, Mangaliman

said.

“By God’s mercy, no other hostage was harmed,” he said.

The five-hour hostage crisis began when security guard Rey Rigor, who was armed with a revolver and a knife, opened fire inside the bus while it was passing through Lubao, wounding two male passengers.

Bus driver Raphy Pascual said he heard two shots and immediately pulled over and opened the bus doors to let passengers escape.

He said he and his conductor helped out a man with a bullet wound in the stomach. Another wounded man was later freed by the gunman, but police said he died on the way to a hospital.



One of the last hostages, second from left, cries as she is rescued by police following a hostage drama along a highway in Lubao, Pampanga northwest of Manila Thursday May 29, 2008.



A government soldier secures the area as police investigators search for clues at the explosion site Thursday, May 29, 2008 in Zamboanga City in southern Philippines.

Bomb kills 2, wounds 19 in Philippine base

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A homemade bomb exploded outside an air force base in the southern Philippines on Thursday, killing two people and wounding 19 others in a possible attack by al-Qaida-linked militants, police said.

The cell phone-detонated bomb was apparently concealed in one of several bags of civilian commuters waiting to hitch a ride on an air force C-130 cargo plane outside Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga city, police Chief Superintendent Jaime Caringal said.

A man and a woman, both waiting to get on the plane, were killed in the blast, police said.

American troops providing counterterrorism training to Fil-

ipino soldiers were encamped at the air base, but none was injured, police said.

Caringal said no one had claimed responsibility for the bomb, which also damaged three parked cars and a lawmaker’s office in a two-story building across the street from the base.

Two of the lawmaker’s employees were wounded, including Voltaire Mahatol.

“The blast was so powerful I fell to the floor from my seat in the office,” Mahatol told The Associated Press by telephone.

Most of the wounded were civilian relatives of soldiers waiting to get a free ride on the Manila-bound C-130. At least four Filipino employees of AMORE, a private group helping implement USAID-funded community power projects in the south, were among those wounded, police said.

Villar said the drug bust was triggered late Sunday when task force agents observed a vehicle suspiciously roaming in the vicinity of a Taiwanese vessel, FB Shun Fa Xing, which had arrived from Vietnam. Workers were later seen loading the vehicle with several boxes from the ship, he said.

The driver of the vehicle tried to bring boxes out of the freeport, claiming they contained “sensitive computer parts.” Freeport officers stopped him because he could not show documents pertaining to the cargo. He returned Monday but he was

\$97M worth of illegal drugs seized in Subic

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A government anti-smuggling task force seized nearly 1,600 pounds (710 kilograms) of illegal drugs worth 4.2 billion pesos (US\$97.7 million; euro 62 million) inside an economic and tourism zone, an official said Wednesday.

Antonio Villar, chief of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force, said 198 lbs. (90 kilograms) of crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride packed in plastic bags were first discovered Tuesday inside five boxes a Chinese trader allegedly tried to bring out of the Subic Bay Freeport, west of Manila.

On Wednesday, authorities recovered two watertight bags floating near a pier containing 44 lbs. (20 kilograms) of the

illegal drug, known locally as shabu, plus 60 boxes containing 1,323 lbs. (600 kilograms) more inside a warehouse owned by the trader.

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were among those wounded, police said.

U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney condemned the attack. “This is a terrible incident. ... We hope those who did this will be brought to justice,” she said.

Investigators were looking at the possibility that al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants were involved in the attack. The militants have clashed in recent days with Philippine marines on nearby Basilan island.

“One possibility is that this is an Abu Sayyaf diversionary attack or a retaliation,” Caringal said.

The Abu Sayyaf has targeted Zamboanga city, a predominantly Roman Catholic trading city, in the past. They were blamed by police for two nearly simultaneous bombings that damaged a cathedral and a com-

mercial building in April.

A security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, said police have received intelligence reports of a plan by Muslim militants to stage abductions and bombings in three southern cities, including Zamboanga, about 530 miles (860 kilometers) south of Manila.

15 killed in road accident

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least 15 people have been killed and six others were injured when a passenger minibus slammed into a hillside and overturned in a southern Philippine town early this week, a police official said Wednesday.

Nine people, including three children, were killed Monday when the driver lost control of the vehicle while driving through Hinatuan township in Surigao del Sur province, regional police chief Jaime Milla said in a report Wednesday.

He said six other people later died from their injuries in the hospital, but it was not immediately clear if there were other children among the fatalities.

He said he only received word of the accident late Tuesday due to poor communications from the remote township, about 500 miles (800 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

No splitsville for William Martinez and Yayo

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—William Martinez clarifies that he and Yayo Aguilera are not headed for splitsville. “Nagbibiro kasi ako ‘pag may magtanong sa akin where Yayo is,” he explains. “I tell them nasa US nagi-file ng divorce sa akin. Hirap sa showbiz, tinototo pati jokes.”

But someone in the know insists that Yayo was really contemplating filing for divorce so she left for a quick trip to the US. They got married in Reno in the ‘80s.

Now it looks like they have ironed out the kinks between them because Yayo is back from the States. “Papunta kaming Camsur with the kids,” says William. Hopefully, they will stay together, and not just for their kids’ sake. What good is marriage if it turns into a mirage?

Sizzling cover girl

Precious Adona sizzles on the cover of FHM’s May issue. That only serves as a teaser of the “Playmate ng Bayan”’s movie “Torotot” (Viva Films).

Who are the three actors she wants to ‘play’ with? “Sam



Precious Adona

Milby, Piolo Pascual and John Lloyd Cruz,” she declares unabashedly.

Has she ever cheated on her BF, as the title of her movie implies?

“Yup,” says Precious. “I dumped him but gave him a different reason why. He didn’t know I already found someone else.”

One game she never wants to

play in the battle of the sexes? “I hate mind games and open relationships. Waste of time.” With Adona, it’s always a helluva good time for boytoys.

Bio-film for Binoe

Watch out for “Paano Ginawa ang isang Robin Padilla?”—a digital bio-film directed by his former manager/mentor Deo J. Fajardo.

It stars R.J. Padilla (youngest son of Rommel Padilla) as Binoe and Jackie Rice as Liezl (Robin’s wife). Nobody knows Binoe better than Deo.

In love

Jowee Ann Marquez and Tito Lopez are head over heels in love.

They are celebrities in their own right. Jowee is the daughter of Joey Marquez and former actress Brenda del Rio. Tito is a Lopez scion (son of Albertito and Emily Lopez).

They met nine years ago when Jowee was 12 and Tito was 22. “We never kept in touch and just saw each other as distant friends,” recalls Jowee. “When I turned 17, he called my cousin to fix a dinner date with me but there was no malice

at all (laughs). From then on, he would call to check on me and seek advice on his relationships. We both split up from our partners at about the same time and that’s how it started.”

Tito hasn’t met Jowee’s dad. But Jowee is upbeat. “Dad has seen his pics,” she says. “I want Tito and I to be together longer so that he will be the last BF my dad will ever meet.”

What do they love most about each other? “She keeps me grounded,” Tito says. “She always reminds me to stay humble because I’ve been blessed in so many ways.”

Jowee relates, “He gives me a wake-up call every morning to inspire me to be the best I can be.”

The 10-year age gap is no problem for them at all. “We enjoy the same stuff. Besides he doesn’t look his age,” Jowee explains. “This is the only relationship that I’m willing to go through hell and back...” Has it been just seven months since they went steady? From the way they sound, it seems like they’ve been loving each other since birth.

Delusional

Got this shocking e-mail from

my fab friend Joyce Ramirez. She’s the manager of Pinoy British footballer Philip Younghusband. Attached were pics of a young starlet who was preggy in the shots. Here are portions of Joyce’s message:

“I am hunting the head of this young starlet who has been sending pics to Phil’s phone via MMS while he was still in England. Apparently, the starlet met Phil when I arranged his guesting in a TV show last year.

“The photos include two images taken from a TV taping in which the starlet appears to be pregnant, and another in which she shows her cleavage while wearing just a bra in a bathroom.

Phil told me that the girl has been chasing him, texting him, even desperately going out of her way to send him stale cookies that she personally baked (probably with a bad dose of gayuma) to England. But what I don’t understand is what kind of person would send pregnant photos (even if they are fakes) to a young boy? I think she needs a psychiatrist.”

Perhaps the starlet has a delusion that Philip must live up to his surname and become her young hubby.

Groom’s father in near walkout of Inah-Vince wedding, says source

MANILA, Philippines—Amid the emotions and fanfare, the wedding of Inah Revilla and Vince del Rosario had its share of controversy, according to a source who attended the glitz event held at the Manila Cathedral on Wednesday.

Vince’s father, Jorge del Rosario, had almost walked out of the wedding due to reasons unclear to those present, the source said. Del Rosario, however, was prevailed upon to stay but distanced himself from Inah’s parents, Sen. Bong Revilla and Lani Mercado, and even Vince’s mom Angela Diaz da Roza, the source added.

The incident sparked speculation that the relationship between the families of the newlyweds remained sour despite having settled a misunderstanding over Inah’s pregnancy when Vince’s family visited the Revilla home for the traditional pamamanhikan.

Del Rosario is Revilla’s former consultant.

Other sources claimed Vince’s parents are separated and refused to be seen together.

INQUIRER.net tried but failed to reach any member of the Revilla or Del Rosario families or any of their representatives for comment as of this posting.

Despite the alleged incident, the Revilla-Del Rosario wedding is among the grandest showbiz events this year. It drew the biggest political figures and showbiz personalities, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s daughter Evangelina Arroyo, Senate President Manuel Villar, Senators Mar Roxas and Pia Cayetano, Interior and Local Governments Secretary Ronaldo Puno, former Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, ABS-CBN president Charo Santos-Concio, and GMA Network chairman, president and CEO Felipe Gozon. (INQUIRER.net)

What does it take to become a millionaire?

Editor’s Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: What does it take to be a millionaire? With my modest income, it seems a near impossible dream for me. I can’t imagine being able to save up enough money to be one. —Lisa S.

Answer: These days, the day time and prime time game shows on TV are raking in the audience and the advertising support and people are tickled pink at the thought of taking a chance at becoming a millionaire in one day.

Lottery outlets also get long queues when there’s an upcoming super lottery draw. People, from the low-income to the middle-income classes, are lining up in hopes of winning the elusive jackpot.

But the chances of winning in game shows and lotto draws are very slim. Instead of dreaming about becoming a millionaire through these schemes, choose to work on becoming a millionaire yourself. No, Lisa, it’s not too far out to dream of becoming one.

Look around you. There may be millionaires you already know living in your neighborhood or going to the same office as you do. These are the people who live in their own homes with their own cars, whose assets total more than P1 million.

Whether or not they feel like millionaires is up to them. But the crucial factor is that they have built up an asset base valued at over P1 million. It is an attainable goal.

There are the really rich and visible millionaires who are business tycoons. When you read their life stories, you’ll be struck with the fact that some of them were born poor. If they made it from rags to riches, there’s no reason why you can’t try.

To reach that goal, you have to learn the secrets of millionaires. Here they are:

1. Treat money as something to save and invest. The minute you receive your paycheck or a windfall (example, an inheritance or a bonus), think of how much you can put away as savings. Then look for venues where you can invest your money. If you think this way, you won’t be tempted to splurge money.

Some people splurge their retirement pay on BMWs or Mercedes Benzes. But when they get really sick, they find themselves with not enough cash to pay the hospital. So save more, rather than spend more.

2. Assume some risk when investing. When you play safe in investing, you’ll get safe (but low) returns as well. Millionaires have gone out on a limb putting up businesses which they hoped would earn—nothing is guaranteed. But it is in taking calculated risks that they are rewarded.

When investing, look at higher-yielding investments. Sure, they may

be more risky than regular ones (such as savings and time deposits), but you may earn more in the long run. Just be wary of get-rich-quick investment schemes. Remember the adage: If it is too good to be true, it is.

3. Live simply. If you keep your cost of living low, you will have more cash to save and invest. Some millionaires have lived in the same homes they have had for the past 30-40 years. Or they live in the homes they inherited.

You can also take a cue from the way millionaires live: not all party every night, nor do they buy every new car model that’s released. Instead, you’ll find these millionaires working at their desks at 8 a.m. and having just two cars in the garage.

4. Have a goal. Don’t just dream; set financial goals for yourself. By being specific, you will be more motivated to reach your goal. For instance, make it your goal to have your own home by the time you are 35 or 40. It may be a studio condo unit or a three-bedroom home in a subdivision—it will depend on your income and how you save over the years. Having a goal will help you focus your efforts well.

5. Choose good debt over bad debt. Take out a loan only when the loan proceeds will be used to earn you more money. For instance, apply for a bank loan to expand a business that’s feasible. But to take out a loan to buy assets that depreciate quickly (examples: sports

cars, yachts, etc.) may not be wise as these assets will not earn you enough to pay off the loan. If you really want to buy such assets, pay in cash so you don’t have to pay the cost of borrowing.

6. Share your blessings. There seems to be a unique mathematical formula at work: The more you give, the more you are blessed back in return. Help those who are in financial need, and you may find yourself blessed all the more. If you’re an employer, share profits with your employees; they’ll be more motivated to work for you, leading the way to increased productivity.

7. Train children to handle money well. It would be sad if money you earned will just be spent unwisely by the next generation. Teach children the basics of money management, and caution them against vices such as gambling, drugs, and the like. Being responsible about wealth will be rewarded in the long run.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader’s reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Nothing's sacred

Editor's Note: The following editorial was first published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on May 30, 2008.

The problem with holiday economics is not the economics; it is the holiday from history that lies, like a snug worm, at the very core of it. The concept of moveable feasts is nothing new; we are, after all, a country steeped in Catholic tradition. But the notion that the most consequential milestones in our history as a nation should be celebrated on the "Monday nearest" the actual date, simply because to do so is convenient and stimulates economic activity, should be reexamined. It trivializes history, and reduces the role of citizens in an emerging democracy to raw consumerism.

On Wednesday, Malacañang issued a reminder that June 9, Monday, will be a special non-working holiday, since Independence Day, June 12, falls on a Thursday. "All activities and celebrations in commemoration of Independence Day shall, however, remain to be observed on June 12," a spokesperson said.

From the perspective of the ordinary Filipino, however, Independence Day this year will be remembered—that, after all, is what commemoration means—on June 9. Official rites will "remain to be observed" (in Malacañang's stilted language) by the government the following Thursday, but the people the government is supposed to serve will have already marked it three days before.

Unfortunately, legal and legislative fiat exists for this sorry divorce of milestone and meaning. This year's schedule of regular and special nonworking holidays is outlined in Proclamation 1463, dated Feb. 18, 2008. And Proclamation 1463 is based on Republic Act 9492, signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on July 25, 2007. RA 9492 provides, in part, that certain national holidays shall be observed on the "Monday nearest" the traditional date.

Both the proclamation and the law were welcomed by many businessmen, because they brought some order back into the matter of holidays. After the President's legitimacy crisis erupted in mid-2005, Malacañang was quick to declare holidays as part of a strategy to defuse political tension or diffuse public outrage. The law and the proclamation allowed businessmen to make plans with greater certainty.

But both measures also made holiday economics permanent. First tried in the early years of the Arroyo administration, the policy of creating long weekends to promote domestic travel or encourage greater spending appears to work well enough; the malls seem even more crowded than usual, the outbound traffic from major urban centers heavier than usual.

But the increase in consumption has come at a steep price: A famously forgiving people have been encouraged—by the government, no less—to become forgetful, unmindful of history, too.

The truth is, it is not the rites, the ritual wreath-laying and flag-raising and speech-making of officialdom that are the true measure of commemoration. It is the officially sanctioned respite from work—the holiday—that creatively disrupts our regular schedule, and reminds us that something is out of the ordinary.

The decision to separate this opportunity from the rites does not only prioritize economic concerns over history's purposes; it also privileges officialdom over citizenship. The unwritten assumption seems to be: Let the masses enjoy themselves; the important people, anyway, will observe the holidays.

ONE: A Filipino movement

It is public knowledge, internally, that Filipinos are burdened by a curse called divisiveness. This destructive pattern is not the exclusive domain of Filipinos in the Philippines but is like a virus that travels where Filipinos travel. It is very much alive among Filipinos in North America if we look at the number of Filipino associations, around 200 in San Diego alone.

I am in my second week in San Diego, California, primarily to support a new and determined effort to promote solidarity among Filipinos in North America. Although I am not a Filipino-American, many among those who help my prime advocacy, Gawad Kalinga, are from San Diego. It was more than a pleasant surprise when a few GK advocates from San Diego led by Tony Olaes, a successful second-generation Filipino-American, began a renewed effort towards solidarity among Filipinos in North America.

I have been monitoring email correspondence of several egroups in the last 12 years. With great consistency, more and more Filipinos in America write about their deep desire to help the homeland, to strip it of its corrupt image and behavior, to take the poor out of their historical poverty. A common sentiment can be a common cause, and there are common sentiments that can be firm bases to become common causes. Yet, the pattern of divisiveness is embedded too deeply and has created so many wounds that common sentiments and causes have not yet triggered a visible move toward unity.

Why would a young businessman and others like him take on such a quixotic quest after all others before them failed? When I asked him, Tony Olaes said because he longed for that solidarity, he believed it was time, and he knew that with just a few committed patriots committed to spend their own money like him could drive the movement without being dependent on solicited funds. If I had not been aware of what Olaes has been doing for Gawad Kalinga and the village he is building in the memory of his grandparents in Cavite province, near Manila, I would be skeptical even though I, too, believe that the moment is

quickly ripening.

To walk his talk, Olaes mounted a soft launch of the movement for Filipino solidarity in America last Saturday, May 24. Calling it ONE — A Filipino Celebration, Olaes chose Klimal Park in National City as the venue of the launch. Together with Robert Sanchez, another successful second-generation Filipino-American, the operational support of Seafood City and the multilevel marketing group of the health drink Mona-Vie, Olaes staged a whole day fiesta at Kimball Park with end-to-end entertainment by performers of Filipino descent.

The ONE movement that Olaes and friends want to promote begins with reaching out to kindred spirits among other successful Filipinos from North America. Some Filipino-Americans from other states are already on board to be the strategic players in key regions. Tony Olaes does not want to form an organization and prefers a movement that will draw life from its core group and the cooperation of Filipinos and Filipino organizations across America. After all, he does not envision competing associations submitting themselves to an umbrella organization, nor does he feel that it is necessary. Apparently, he believes that unity is possible in diversity for as long as they can adopt common causes.

With the history of divisiveness of Filipinos, it seems impossible that a centuries-old behavioral pattern can be dismantled by the vision and nobility of a few Filipinos in America, no matter how wealthy and strategic they may be. However, the work of Gawad Kalinga is being supported by even competing organizations or corporations. Recognizing the capacity of Gawad Kalinga as a convergence zone, Olaes and friends believe that it serves a template for unity. ONE, then, is being formulated to be grounded on the same principles and values as Gawad Kalinga.

It is impossible to build a nation we can all be proud of if poverty and corruption continue to define Philippine society and governance. It is impossible to dismantle poverty and corruption

GLIMPSES

By JOSE MA.
MONTELIBANO
INQUIRER.net



Responses may be sent to jimglimpses@gmail.com.

if the pattern of divisiveness overrides the need for change and honor. But if the solidarity we seek has not been an impossible dream, then we would not be poor or corrupt. Thousands of well-meaning patriots have tried over several decades to bring a divided people together, and many of them gave up their lives to do so. I would think it remains impossible if I have not been aware that Filipinos abroad are shedding their apathy and now expressing a more intense desire to help those who are left behind.

Are Filipinos ready to move towards common causes and take common actions? It does not appear so in the Philippines, even at times when the worst of issues are presented to the public. Somehow, the reaction to poverty and corruption is weak and glaringly inadequate considering the need. Filipinos in the home land continue to be submissive, and only a looming food shortage—whether from supply insufficiency or from inability to pay higher prices—can conceivably cause a political stir.

In the United States, however, I am convinced that Filipinos are nearing the point of intolerance against poverty and corruption. The young especially are manifesting their desire to visit a home land they never felt anything for before. That is a sure sign that things will change, and change dramatically.

Perhaps, ONE is such a manifestation of the resolve of second, and third, generations of Filipino-Americans to participate in building a brighter future for the home land. They may be in search of a collective honor, or they may truly be repulsed by the poverty of their own countrymen. Whatever it is, I am hopeful that the first rays of a new day are penetrating the darkness, and that a new age for the Philippines is about to arise.

LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO
Inquirer



Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Mexico.

There are three monuments or historical markers in the Intramuros area that are related to Mexico. Somewhere by the Pasig river, on the same street as the Bureau of Immigration, is a memorial to the galleon trade. On the other side of the walled city, along Bonifacio Drive, there is a small memorial to Mexican Air Squadron 501—Mexican pilots who served in the Philippines during World War II.

Close to this is the statue of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (1753-1811), the National Hero of Mexico whose cry for independence is often lost among Filipinos who do not know him.

Then of course in Makati we have an old and new Guadalupe—Guadalupe Viejo and Guadalupe Nuevo—churches that trace the origin of their patroness to Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe or Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. This image is a symbol of Mexico and the shrine that preserves the image is supposedly the second most visited Catholic church after St. Peter's in Rome. In 1835, Pope Pius XI made Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Philippines.

Finally, some words in our languages that we presume are Spanish like "gafas" for eyeglasses and "casafuego" for matches are actually Mexican. Spaniards use "lentes" or "anteojos" instead of "gafas" for eyeglasses. Spaniards use "cerillas" instead of "casafuego" for matches. It seems that when you scratch the modern Filipino in an attempt to uncover the various cultures that make him what he is, Mexico will be found under his skin.

Mexico, under our skin

Bahay Kubo" is a nursery rhyme that Filipinos carry into their old age. Passed on from generation to generation nobody takes the trouble to think about the lyrics. The title is taken from the first line of the song that has nothing to do with a nipa frond hut. "Bahay Kubo" is actually a song about vegetables that grow around the hut. "Singkamas," "talong," "sigarilyas," "mani," "sitaw," "bataw" and "patani" are so common Filipinos presume these are native to the country. Many people are surprised to learn that many of the plants, fruits and vegetables they grew up with were imported centuries ago. Many of the "native" plants we know were vegetable and fruit immigrants from Mexico. Best examples are "camote," "achuete," "sayote," even chocolate—most of the fruits and vegetables that end with "te" originated from Mexico. On the other hand, through the galleon trade, the Philippines gave Mexico mangoes that are now known there as Mangas de Manila. Globalization may sound like a new word or concept but it is actually centuries old.

Look back at the exchange between East and West during the galleon trade and you will see globalization at work early on in our history. Mexico may not figure in our history like Spain, the United States of America, or Japan but the cultural links run deep.

Taking a shortcut and avoiding the trouble of undertaking research in our archives, museums and libraries, the Mexican Embassy in Manila was smart enough to send a query regarding street names, landmarks and institutions in the Philippines related to Mexico to our Department of Foreign Affairs.

Their letter, following diplomatic channels, was transmitted to the National Historical Institute that did research that yielded surprising results. Naturally, the place to start is the province of Pampan-

ga that is famous for its version of tamales and a southern town called Mexico. Though similar in look and intent, the Kapampangan tamales is a rice cake with meat steamed in banana leaves; it is said to be of pre-Spanish origin and only loosely related to the Mexican kind that is made of cornmeal and is wrapped in corn husks.

There are many versions about how Mexico town in Pampanga got its name. Local lore states that the town got its name from Guachinangos who settled there from Mexico during Spanish times. Another story is that the founders of the town—Spanish friars, military and civil officials—had served in Mexico and finding some physical similarities between the two gave it its present name.

The problem is that, then as now, Kapampangans do not pronounce Mexico as written but "mispronounce" it as "maisicu." According to Diego de Bergano, who compiled one of the earliest Kapampangan dictionaries and grammars in the early 18th century, "maisicu" is an archaic term that means "abundance." Could Maisicu be the pre-colonial name of the town then Hispanized into Mexico? Well, the "Libro de Gobiernos" [Book of Governments] of the Augustinian order states that the town from the earliest records was known as Nueva Mexico, or New Mexico.

New Mexico in the United States has a town called Santa Fe; well, there is a Santa Fe street in Tondo, Manila, that is named after the original Santa Fe in Mexico. Then there is a street in Manila that connects Tayuman street, Sta Cruz with Lacson street in Sampaloc called A. Mendoza, a rather common name in the Philippines that leads residents to ask who is the historic Filipino honored by that street. The street was named after Antonio de Mendoza, first viceroy of Mexico (1535). Finally, there is a municipality in Northern Samar called Capul that is not named after anyone or anything local; rather, Capul is from Acapulco,

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



LABOR CLAIMS

Hundreds of Filipino nonresident workers with unpaid administrative orders meet with CNMI Department of Labor officers and staff inside the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Filipino nonresident workers patiently line up to meet with CNMI Department of Labor officers and staff inside the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Joy Oblea of Commonwealth Health Center Psychiatry and Joy De Luna of CHC Transitional Living Center pose for a photo during the Mental Health Awareness Month Fair at the Minachom Attdao Pavilion, Friday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CHEFS COMPETITION WINNERS

2008 Taste of the Marianas Chefs competition first place winner Marianas Resort and Spa junior chefs Edgardo Malabayabas, Carlito Equia and Executive chef William Retardo hold their trophies.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



HONOR STUDENT

2008 Academic Achievement Award recipient Hazel Sharon Bedia Handayan, summa cum laude with a associate degree in Nursing, pose with her daughter Luisa, proud parents Celia and Irvin Handayan, and other relatives shortly after the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



ALL SMILES

K4 student Jamimah D. Borromeo smiles for the camera during the Green Meadows School Recognition Day.

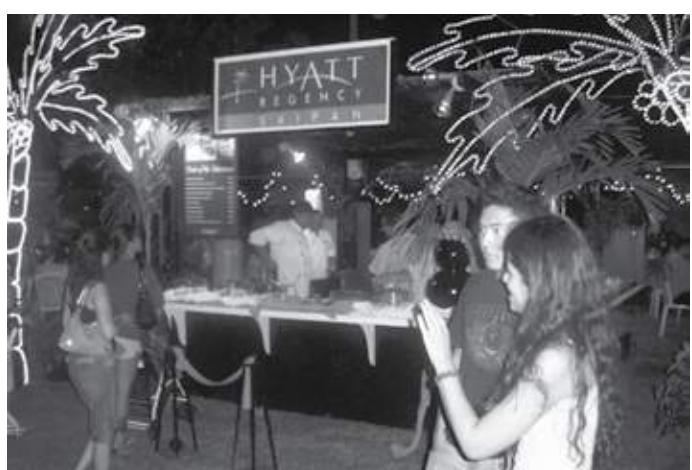
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



RECOGNITION DAY

Second grade A-honor student Monica Aira Usi, 8, with her grandmother Babes Baysa and dad Mico Usi during the Green Meadows School Recognition Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



HYATT BOOTH

The booth of Hyatt Regency Hotel attracts many customers during the Taste of the Marianas, held every Saturday for the month of May at the American Memorial Park. Thousands of people are expected to visit the last day of the event today, May 31.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



MARIANA RESORT AND SPA

The staff of Mariana Resort and Spa entertain some customers during the Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park. The event, which is held every Saturday for the month of May, has attracted thousands of people, including tourists.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



'GABI NG PASASALAMAT'

Members of the CNMI POWER organization pose for a picture during the Tuloy Aral "Gabi ng Pasasalamat" after receiving their certificate of appreciation given by OWWA/POLO for sponsoring two less privileged children in the Philippines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

So you want to be a veterinarian?

By AMY ORNDORFF
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Sierra was feeling terrible. But, unlike a person, she couldn't describe what hurt. Fortunately, a veterinarian figured out what was ailing the golden retriever.

"She just wanted to eat rocks one day," veterinarian Karena Joung said with a chuckle.

Although Sierra wasn't Joung's patient, the 35-year-old vet has had to extract her share of odd things from dogs' bellies at the Hope Center for Advanced Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Va.

The center, an emergency hospital for pets, is open 24 hours, seven days a week. Joung works the night shift. Her workday usually starts at 5 p.m. and lasts until 6 a.m.

Joung says she "actually loves" working overnight because that's when the more severe cases show up, and she enjoys the challenge.

The number of pet-patients she sees in a night varies. On a really busy shift there might be more than 30 — and there is almost always an animal that was hit by a car, and one that ate something bad, such as chocolate.

Figuring out what's wrong with sick animals can be very difficult. The animal's problem is not always obvious. The owner might not know what happened, either.

Since Joung is a stranger to them, some dogs and cats don't want her getting close to them.

"I love the animals, but I realize that they can be afraid of me, and they don't know why they are here," she says. Sometimes

Using an echocardiogram machine, staff at the Hope Center for Advanced Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Va., take ultrasound pictures of the heart of Bubba, a sick Great Dane.

THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the patients at the Hope Center for Advanced Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Va., was a golden retriever named Sierra who had eaten rocks. The rocks, visible in this image, were successfully removed.

THE WASHINGTON POST



CAREER TIPS

Want to be a veterinarian? Here are some ways you can prepare before you start saving animals.

LOVE ANIMALS

Karena Joung says she "felt a bond with dogs and cats ever since I was little."

WHEN I GROW UP

I Want to Be a...

Veterinarian



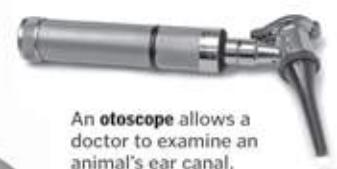
Some Tools of a Veterinarian



The Bionet BM3 is a small and portable patient monitor that can take an animal's blood pressure, detect irregular heartbeats and measure the amount of oxygen in its blood.



A pleximeter measures an animal's reflexes with a light tap on the joints. It's similar to the one doctors use to measure reflexes in humans.



An otoscope allows a doctor to examine an animal's ear canal.

PHOTOS BY BILL WEBSTER -- THE WASHINGTON POST

VOLUNTEER AT A SHELTER

There are many things kids can do there—from playing with the animals to cleaning cages. (Doing messy work is part of the job.)

DO WELL IN SCHOOL

Science and math are especially important: "You do so many cal-

culations (and) every one of our dosages is exact," Joung says. Veterinary schools are tough to get into, so you need good grades in high school.

COMMUNICATE WELL

Joung has to be able to carefully explain what she can or cannot do for a sick or injured animal. That task can be really difficult

if the owners are as scared as their pets.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Vets are needed in many settings, including farms, zoos, labs that make medicine for people and even the government. Different jobs might require very different skills. (*The Washington Post*)

Future Presents

By SCOTT MOORE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

You're invited to a classmate's birthday party. Your parents have given you \$15 with which to buy a gift. What are you going to buy? A gift card from one of the big-box stores is useful but kind of lame. You want something fresh. Something cool. Something your friend can enjoy right away. Never fear, KidPost has some suggestions.

Yamodo!, Yamodo, \$12, ages 8+

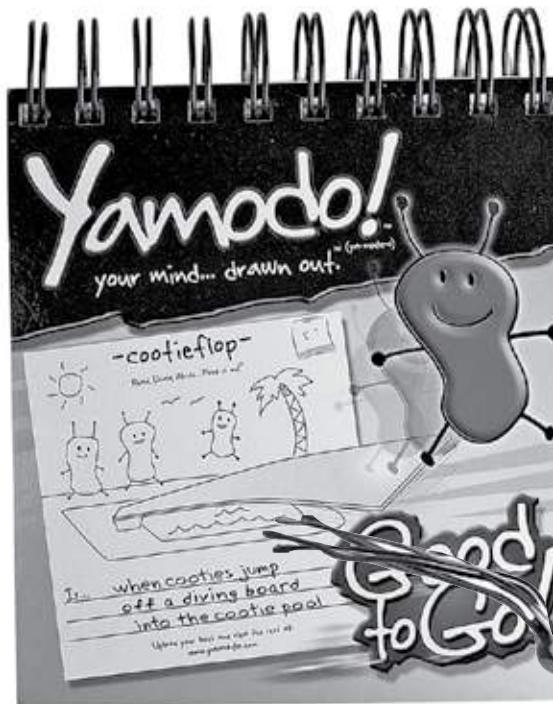
Each page gives you a made-up word and the start of a doodle. Add to the doodle and come up with the

Silly Spheres and Silly Squares, DuneCraft, \$5, ages 6+

Wiggly, jiggly fun. Empty the colorful contents in a container of water and watch them grow to hundreds of times their size. Then bounce them—or throw them hard and watch them explode! Can be used multiple times.

Bandits, Buffalo Games, \$7, ages 10+

If you're starting to get bored with Uno, give this Wild West-themed card game a try. There are lots of tricks and twists. And kids ages 6-10 will enjoy the Monster Maker car game.



start of a funny explanation of what the word means. Pass it around and see what you come up with, then share your best efforts on the company's Web site.

Chops, Bigetoy, \$7, ages 6+

No matter what game you play—solitaire, crazy eights, rummy, etc.—you'll become more familiar with musical

Drop Popz, SpinMaster, \$5, ages 6+

These simple toys will be the hit of the party. Flex the rubber toy, then

notes and chords. *Really, Mom, I'm practicing my music!*

Available at www.bigtosys.blogspot.com.



spin the post between your thumbs and index

finger as you drop it. When it hits the ground, it will pop and soar eight feet in the air! (Zing Toys has a similar product called ZeeBees.)

Sports keychains and bracelets, GameWear, \$10 and up, ages 8+

Perfect for the sports fans on your list. The leather, stitching and rubber elements of sports balls and pucks have been turned into products that keep their owners close to the games they love. The

company also has iPod cases.

Smart-Switch Yo-Yo, Yomega, \$13, ages 8+

With a DVD showing more than 100 tricks, this is the perfect yo-yo for a beginner. As you improve your skills, flip a switch from auto-return to high-speed-spin mode, and take your yo-yoing to the next level.

Spinz pens, Jakks Pacific, \$10, ages 8+

More than a million people are spinning pens, and these models are

to a bike wheel and you'll look cool—and be more easily seen by motorists. Designed to last 100,000 hours. Available at www.safetysmartgear.com.



Benders, Hog Wild, \$8-\$12, ages 6+

Bendable magnetic figures come in dozens of fun styles, including monsters, athletes, musicians, Wild West figures and pirates.



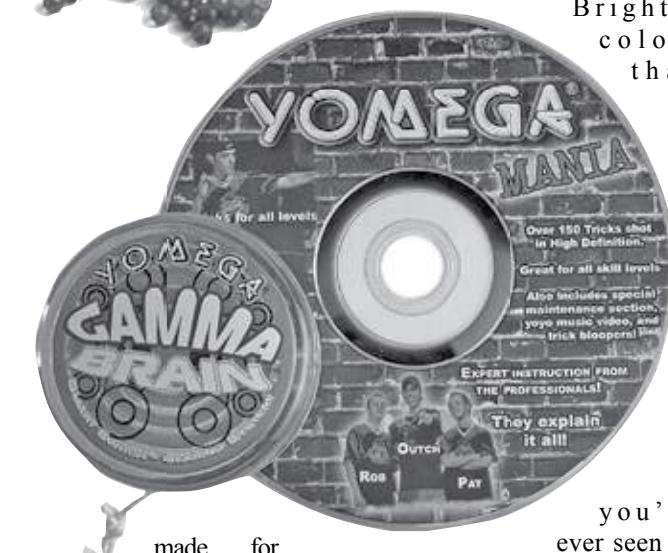
Robotikits, OWI Incorporated, \$12 and up, ages 10+

Educational building kits allow you to make heavy-duty aluminum creatures (including scorpions, butterflies, rhino beetles) and plastic, solar-powered figures.



Color Surge, Crayola, \$8, ages 6-10

Brighter colors than



L.E.D. SpokeLit, Nitelze, \$10, all ages

Attach this green or red light

you've ever seen on colored construction paper. Crayola scientists have come up with a special, secret process so markers' colors pop even on really dark paper. And the pages have a different color on each side.

BOOK REVIEW

"Elvis and Olive,"

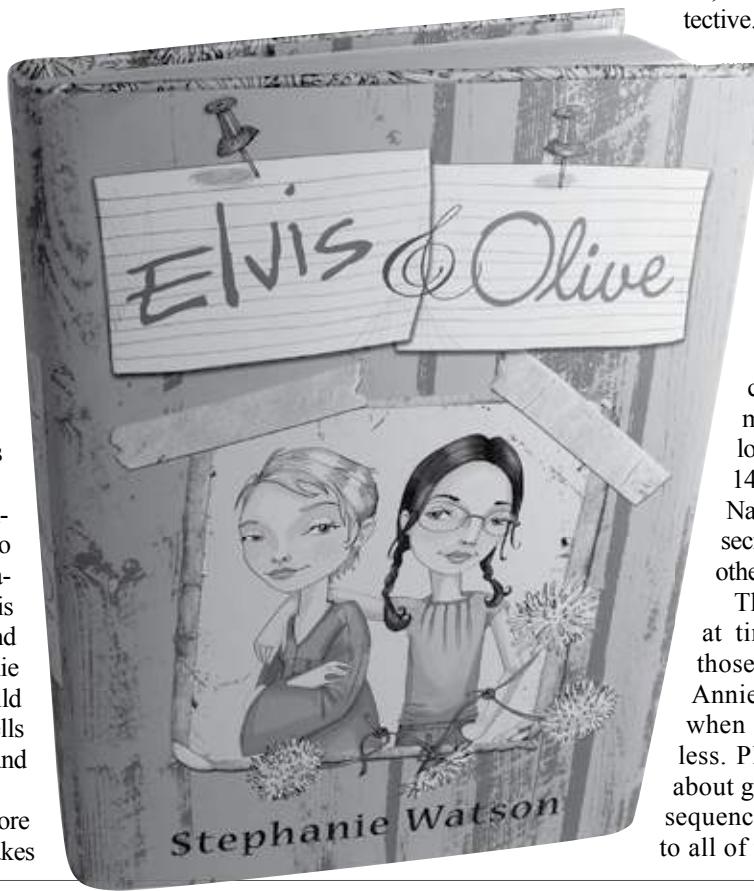
by Stephanie Watson
Ages 9-12

By AMY ORNDORFF
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Everyone has a secret. Natalie Wallis and Annie Beckett hope to learn all the secrets of their neighborhood. They invent secret names (Natalie's is Olive, Annie's is Elvis) to use while spying on their neighbors and hanging out in their cool headquarters under Annie's porch.

Natalie and Annie are unlikely friends, which leads to some funny moments. Natalie attends private school, is always safety-conscious and follows all of the rules. Annie is in public school and is wild and brave, but sometimes tells whopping lies to get around telling painful truths.

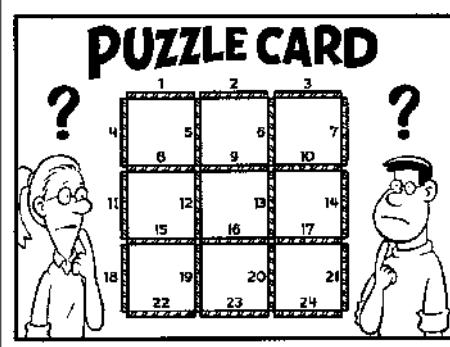
Each girl wants to be more like the other, and that makes



their friendship strong. Natalie enjoys going on adventures with Annie, since her parents are a bit overprotective. Annie is an orphan who lives with her uncle and longs for the stable, loving family that Natalie has.

The two spend their summer afternoons peeking in neighbors' windows and rushing back to their secret spot to write what they see on notecards. Slowly they build a notecard file about everyone in the neighborhood. Some of the secrets are silly (the Army sergeant makes papier-mache hot-air balloons) and some are serious (one 14-year-old girl steals jewelry), but Natalie and Annie keep the biggest secrets — their own — from each other.

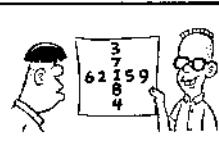
Though this story is predictable at times, it is worth reading for those moments when Natalie's and Annie's personalities clash, and when Natalie starts becoming fearless. Plus, the lessons the two learn about growing up and facing the consequences of their actions can apply to all of us.



YOUR PROBLEM is to remove four straws from the 24 shown here and have five squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 2, 11, 14 and 23, you will be left with five squares.

A NIFTY NUMBER CHALLENGE! Challenge your friends to take the digits 1 through 9 and arrange them into two rows that each add up to the same total. When they give up, write them down as shown to the right. You'll find that each row adds up to 23.



LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words that are divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from a word in the left column to a word in the right.

Answers: 1. Higher, 2. Scowled, 3. Accid., 4. Caddied, 5. Message.

1. HIT	DIED
2. SCOW	AGE
3. ACE	TEST
4. CAD	HER
5. MESS	LED
6. TAR	TIC

A FILL-IN PUZZLE! Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 14 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

MISCELLANEOUS WORDS

ABODE	NAME
AGING	NYLON
AGLOW	SAINT
AMBLE	SCAMS
ARGON	SUGAR
GATES	TALK
ICING	TIGER

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Answers: 1. Access, 2. Saint, 3. Aging, 4. Aglow, 5. Gates, 6. Nylon, 7. Amble, 8. Tack, 9. Talk, 10. Adore, 11. Tar, 12. Wrote.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was famed journalist and news anchor Edward R. Murrow who made the following sage observation: "Just because your voice reaches halfway around the world doesn't mean you are wiser than when it reached only to the end of the bar."

■ According to news reports, hundreds of people have been trekking to the remote Indonesian village of Curugsewu to see a new addition to its rather primitive zoo: a recently captured python. This isn't just any serpent, however; at 990 pounds and 49 feet long, it's the largest snake ever to be kept in captivity. It begs the question: How exactly do you go about catching a python of such immense size?

■ As summer approaches, you might want to keep in mind the fact that there are 1,500 known species of fleas and 9,500 known species of ants. Then again, that might be a factoid you'd rather forget.

■ Actor Tom Cruise attended 15 different schools when he was growing up.

■ As the drought in the American Southwest drags on, it's interesting to note that 70 percent of southern Nevada's water use goes through the sprinklers for golf courses and lawns in Las Vegas.

■ The English word "velvet" comes from the Latin for "shaggy hair."

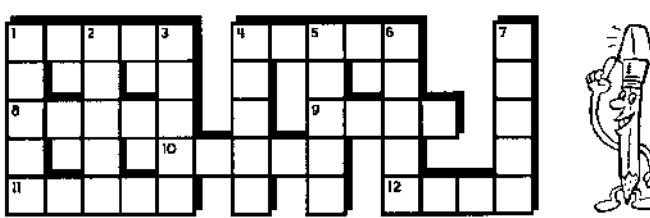
■ You've heard of narcolepsy, a medical condition that causes sufferers to sleep excessively, sometimes up to 18 hours a day. You're probably not familiar with philagrynia, though. People with this condition—I won't call them "sufferers"—require only three or four hours of sleep a day. What would you do with all that extra time?

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Nothing, to my way of thinking, is a better proof of a well-ordered mind than a man's ability to stop just where he is and pass some time in his own company." —Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A FILL-IN PUZZLE!

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 14 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

MISCELLANEOUS WORDS

ABODE	NAME
AGING	NYLON
AGLOW	SAINT
AMBLE	SCAMS
ARGON	SUGAR
GATES	TALK
ICING	TIGER

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Answers: 1. Access, 2. Saint, 3. Aging, 4. Aglow, 5. Gates, 6. Nylon, 7. Amble, 8. Tack, 9. Talk, 10. Adore, 11. Tar, 12. Wrote.

MAGIC MAZE — MARKET

S V K S P L I E B Y V R O L I
F C Z C O M M O D I T I E S Y
W T Q N A K I F C Z W U U E R
P M J H E L C Z N X U P N I S
Q N L J G E B C S O E O Z T X
V T R P N L J H E R M M E I C
A Y W V T R P N R L E M K R K
I G E C B D T N U A Z L O U C
X W U S R P O W T O E B L C O
M L J I G E P O U D A B B E T
A Y X W U T S D F L L U B S S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Black	Down	Meat	Spot
Bull	Food	Money	Stock
Commodities	Futures	Securities	Super
Common	Labor	Sellers	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★ ★

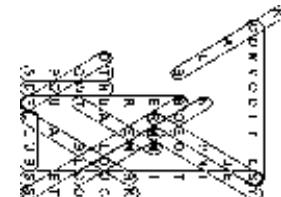
★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
-		+		-	
	-		+		2
x		+		x	
-		x			16
18		12		24	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

18	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
x	-	5	x	4	16
6	-	5	x	4	16
5	-	5	x	4	16
4	-	5	x	4	16
3	-	5	x	4	16
2	-	5	x	4	16
1	-	5	x	4	16
12	-	5	x	4	16
11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
8	-	5	x	4	16
7	-	5	x	4	16
6	-	5	x	4	16
5	-	5	x	4	16
4	-	5	x	4	16
3	-	5	x	4	16
2	-	5	x	4	16
1	-	5	x	4	16
12	-	5	x	4	16
11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
8	-	5	x	4	16
7	-	5	x	4	16
6	-	5	x	4	16
5	-	5	x	4	16
4	-	5	x	4	16
3	-	5	x	4	16
2	-	5	x	4	16
1	-	5	x	4	16
12	-	5	x	4	16
11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
8	-	5	x	4	16
7	-	5	x	4	16
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11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
8	-	5	x	4	16
7	-	5	x	4	16
6	-	5	x	4	16
5	-	5	x	4	16
4	-	5	x	4	16
3	-	5	x	4	16
2	-	5	x	4	16
1	-	5	x	4	16
12	-	5	x	4	16
11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16
9	-	5	x	4	16
8	-	5	x	4	16
7	-	5	x	4	16
6	-	5	x	4	16
5	-	5	x	4	16
4	-	5	x	4	16
3	-	5	x	4	16
2	-	5	x	4	16
1	-	5	x	4	16
12	-	5	x	4	16
11	-	5	x	4	16
10	-	5	x	4	16

Life & Style

45 advance to final day of National Spelling Bee

WASHINGTON (AP)—No one has mastered the look of spelling bee despair better than 10-year-old Veronica Penny.

The Canadian with the long blond hair buried her head deep in her hands each time she was presented with a word Thursday at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She did it not once, not twice, but three times—the third time for a full 20 seconds—while contemplating the word “paleoethnology” in the quarterfinals.

“It looks like she’s going to cry,” said her mother, Pam Penny. “But she’s not. She’s just thinking.”

So, yes, the moment of drama had a positive outcome. Veronica flawlessly spelled the word—it has to do with the study of early humans—putting the first-time participant from Ancaster, Ontario, among 45 spellers who advanced into Friday’s semifinals, thus earning a spot on national television.

“I’m thinking,” said Veronica, explaining her unconventional on-stage style. “I was in another spelling bee, and that’s what I used when the words got harder.”

The 81st edition of the bee began early in the day with a record 288 spellers in a competition that has truly hit the big time, inspiring movies, books and a Broadway musical. ESPN



Veronica Penny, 10, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, covers her face while competing in round two of the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, on Thursday May 29, 2008.

will again broadcast the semifinals, and Friday’s two-hour finals will be aired live in prime time on ABC for the third consecutive year.

Also in the semifinals are favorites Tia Thomas and Matthew Evans, a pair of home-schooled 13-year-olds who renewed a friendly but competitive rivalry that began in 2004. The only five-time repeaters at this year’s bee, they’ve been quizzing each other via computer for months and spent this week trying to stump each other with words from their thick study books.

Tia, from Coarsegold, Calif., pumped her arms and let out of big smile after spelling each of her quarterfinal words: “emollience” and “scission.” “Emollience” falls into a tricky class of words because it has a homonym.

“Everything went according to plan—except me getting a homonym,” Tia said. “I hate homonyms. Those are worst things ever.”

Matthew, from Albuquerque, N.M., buckled at the knees after spelling both “philiater” and the unusual sports term “yannigan,” a word pertaining to an individualized form of baseball in which players constantly rotate positions.

“It seems not to follow any rules,” Matthew said. “It would have been difficult to guess on that one, but I happened to know it.”

Matthew and Tia were finalists last year, but another returning finalist, Cody Wang, was eliminated in the quarterfinals. Cody, 14, of Calgary, Alberta, put both hands to his head and gasped in frustration when he misspelled “hierurgical.”

The two other returning finalists from last year advanced to the semifinals: Kavya Shivashankar, 12, of Olathe, Kansas, and Anqi Dong, 13, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. No Canadian has ever won the bee, but Nate Gartke of Alberta was last year’s runner-up.

Thursday began with the preliminary round, when all the spellers who made it to Washington received their one guaranteed moment in the spotlight. There was the familiar mix of moments comical and nerve-racking as boys and girls aged 8 to 15 tackled words such as “ambuscade” and “Manhattanese.”

“Can you use it in a song?” queried 12-year-old Marie Mach of Dumfries, Va., when presented with the word “espousal.”

“You really don’t want me to,” replied pronouncer Jacques Bailly with a chuckle. “I can’t sing.”

Marie misspelled the word, guessing “e-s-p-o-w-s-e-l.”

A correct spelling counted as extra credit to a written test all the spellers

See 45 on next page

McClellan says he believed in Bush at first

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan defended his bombshell book about the Bush administration on Thursday, saying he didn’t speak up against the overselling of war in Iraq at the time because he, like other Americans, gave the president the benefit of the doubt.

“You’re in a bubble atmosphere,” McClellan said in an interview with AP Television News. “And sometimes because of your affection for the person you’re working for and your belief in that person, you sometimes lose perspective on some of the larger truths out there. It’s hard to step back from that.”

In hindsight, McClellan says he came to view the war as a mistake by a president and advisers swept up in a grand plan of seeding democracy in the Middle East by overturning Iraqi President Saddam Hussein’s regime. McClellan says Bush and his aides became so convinced of the need for war that they ignored or downplayed intelligence that didn’t fit their argument for it.

But McClellan, who had worked for Bush since he was Texas governor and was deputy press secretary during the lead-up to the 2003 invasion, said any misgivings he had were offset by affection for the president and respect for his foreign policy team. It was easy to believe Bush, he told NBC’s “Today” show, because the president wasn’t consciously trying to inflate the threat of Iraq unleashing weapons of mass destruction but only “came to convince himself of that.”



McClellan

In the AP interview, McClellan said Bush “still clings to the hope that history is going to vindicate him.”

“I would welcome such a development,” he said.

McClellan said he grew “increasingly dismayed and disillusioned” during his final year as White House press secretary, and pinpointed the unfolding of the CIA leak case—and what it revealed about Bush’s role in releasing classified information about Iraq to the press—as his tipping point. McClellan became press secretary in July 2003 and left the White House in April 2006.

As his book—“What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington’s Culture of Deception”—vaulted to No. 1 on Amazon.com’s best-seller list, Republican critics dismissed him as a turncoat, a sell-out and a disgruntled former employee. The White House called the book puzzling and sad.

Former White House counselor Dan Bartlett offered an immediate rebuke to McClellan’s allegations of pro-war propaganda.

“I would not personally participate in a process in which we are misleading the American people, and that’s the part that I think is hurting so many of his former colleagues,” Bartlett said, also on speaking on “Today.” “To think that he is making such a striking allegation against his former colleagues, to me, is beyond the pale.”

Speaking on Thursday to reporters in Sweden, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Bush was honest about the

reasons for the war and remains convinced now that toppling Saddam was right and necessary.

In the interviews, McClellan rejected complaints that he penned a sensational book to cash in on his White House service. He said he had “a higher loyalty” to the truth, first regarding the CIA leak case but later wrapping in the White House’s handling of the war, Hurricane Katrina and other issues.

He was ordered to say from the press room podium that White House aides Karl Rove and I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby were not involved in leaking CIA operative Valerie Plame’s identity to the press. Later a criminal investigation revealed that they were.

“I blame myself for putting myself in the position of going to the podium and passing along information I didn’t know was false, but later learned that it was,” McClellan said.

And he recalled a day in April 2006, when the unfolding perjury case against Libby had revealed that Bush secretly declassified portions of a 2002 intelligence report about Iraq’s weapons capabilities to help deflect criticism of his case for war. High-profile criticism was coming from Plame’s husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, in those days before the war.

The president was leaving an event in North Carolina, McClellan recalled, and as they walked to Air Force One a reporter shouted a question: Had the president, who had repeatedly condemned the selective release of secret intelligence, enabled Libby to leak classified information to The New York Times back then to bolster the adminis-

See MCCLELLAN on next page

McClellan book a surprise hit for many

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The allegations of deceit in Scott McClellan’s book have been a surprise not only for Bush officials enraged with the former White House spokesman but also for publishers who turned down what is now the industry’s hottest release.

“Books by spokespeople rarely contain anything newsworthy and have generally not proven particularly compelling to consumers,” said Steve Ross, publisher of the Collins division of HarperCollins and head of the Crown Publishing Group at Random House Inc. at the time McClellan was offering his manuscript. “It was shopped around but, like others who publish in the category, we didn’t even take a meeting based upon past history.”

McClellan, a press secretary known for loyally defending President Bush on Iraq, Katrina and other issues, has written that his ex-boss misled the country about Iraq and calls the White House atmosphere “insular, secretive and combative.”

“What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington’s Culture of Deception” was No. 1 on Amazon.com and the publisher, Public Affairs, said that the printing has been doubled from 65,000 to 130,000.

McClellan’s accusations have been met by counteraccusations that he is cashing in on his White House access. Bush supporters have criticized him, but so have liberals such as commentator Arianna Huffington.

“It’s George Tenet déjà vu all over again,” Huffington wrote in

a posting on her blog, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>, referring to the former CIA director who received seven figures for his memoir. “How many times are we going to have a key Bush administration official try to wash the blood off his hands—and add a chunk of change to his bank account—by writing a come-clean book years after the fact ...”

But McClellan’s book does not fit the pattern of Washington mega-deals. He was not represented by Washington, D.C., attorney Bob Barnett, whose clients include Tenet and countless political leaders, but by the much less known Craig Wiley, whose most famous client is actor Ron Silver.

McClellan’s advance did not approach the level of Barnett’s writers. According to an official with knowledge of McClellan’s contract—who spoke on condition of anonymity citing the confidentiality of the pact—McClellan received only \$75,000 from Public Affairs, which specializes in policy books by billionaire George Soros, Nobel Prize-winning economist Muhammad Yunus and others.

Rival publishers say they had no sense that McClellan would make such explosive observations, a belief scorned by Public Affairs founder Peter Osnos.

“Of course they didn’t know what would be in it, because they didn’t acquire the book,” said Osnos, currently in Los Angeles for BookExpo America, publishing’s annual national gathering. “Very rarely does a book turn out the way it’s expected.”

Comic powerhouse Korman, 81

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Harvey Korman, the tall, versatile comedian who won four Emmys for his outrageously funny contributions to "The Carol Burnett Show" and played a conniving politician to hilarious effect in "Blazing Saddles," died Thursday. He was 81.

Korman died at UCLA Medical Center after suffering complications from the rupture of an abdominal aortic aneurysm four months ago, his family said. He had undergone several major operations.

"He was a brilliant comedian and a brilliant father," daughter Kate Korman said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "He had a very good sense of humor in real life."

A natural second banana, Korman gained attention on "The Danny Kaye Show," appearing in skits with the star. He joined the show in its second season in 1964 and continued until it was canceled in 1967. That same year he became a cast member in the first season of "The Carol Burnett Show."

His most memorable film



In this 1975 file photo originally provided by CBS, Harvey Korman, left, and Tim Conway perform a skit on "The Carol Burnett Show," in Los Angeles.

role was as the outlandish Hedley Lamarr (who was endlessly exasperated when people called him Hedy) in Mel Brooks' 1974 Western satire, "Blazing Saddles."

"A world without Harvey Korman - it's a more serious world," Brooks told the AP on Thursday. "It was very dangerous for me to work with him be-

cause if our eyes met we'd crash to floor in comic ecstasy. It was comedy heaven to make Harvey Korman laugh."

On television, Burnett and Korman developed into the perfect pair with their burlesques of classic movies such as "Gone With the Wind" and soap operas like "As the World Turns" (their version was called "As

the Stomach Turns").

Another recurring skit featured them as "Ed and Eunice," a staid married couple who were constantly at odds with the wife's mother (a young Vicki Lawrence in a gray wig). In "Old Folks at Home," they were a combative married couple bedeviled by Lawrence as Burnett's troublesome young sister.

Korman revealed the secret to the long-running show's success in a 2005 interview: "We were an ensemble, and Carol had the most incredible attitude. I've never worked with a star of that magnitude who was willing to give so much away."

Burnett was devastated by Korman's death, said her assistant, Angie Horejsi.

"She loved Harvey very much," Horejsi said.

After 10 successful seasons, Korman left Burnett's show in 1977 for his own series. Dick Van Dyke took his place, but the chemistry was lacking and the Burnett show was canceled two years later. "The Harvey Korman Show" also failed, as did other series starring the actor.

'Spears not yet fit to take part in case'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Britney Spears is not yet fit to participate in court proceedings in her conservatorship case, her lawyer told a Los Angeles Superior Court commissioner Thursday.

Samuel Ingham, Spears' court-appointed attorney, and attorneys for the pop star's father and conservator, James Spears, spent 90 minutes in Commissioner Reva Goetz' chambers.

Ingham told the court afterward that Spears' medical condition is "fluid" because her treatment is changing.

Spears' probate case is scheduled to go to trial July 31, but Ingham said it could be "harmful" for her to participate. Goetz agreed and said Spears' diagnosis is not complete.

The 26-year-old singer and her estate have been under the conservatorship of her father for four months.



In this Dec. 1, 2007 file photo, singer Britney Spears poses on the press line at the Scandinavian Style Mansion party in Los Angeles.

Europeans practice courtesy when using their cell phones

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: On a recent trip to Europe I learned firsthand the meaning of the term "ugly American," which stems partly from the loud, obnoxious voices we sometimes use in public.

When Europeans are out in public they converse in low, modulated tones. They carry cell phones as we do, but rarely did I see Europeans use them, and never loudly. On trains, they walk out of the train car and answer their phones between the cars, so they won't disturb other passengers. And only once did I see someone answer a cell phone in a restaurant.

For some reason, Americans seem to need to be constantly on their cell phones. It's almost as if they have a compulsion to prove to those around them they are important or have friends. Well, they would gain far more friends if they turned off their phones and smiled or spoke quietly to the human seated next to them.

—TRAVELER IN SAN DIEGO



Dear Abby

DEAR TRAVELER: Here we go again on the subject of cell phone manners. People who plan to travel outside the country need to keep in mind that once we cross the border we become unofficial representatives of the U.S.A., and first impressions can have a lasting impact. That's why it's wise to ask a travel agent or read up on your destination before leaving to learn what the local customs are in the place you are visiting—and this applies not only to the use of cell phones, but also to how you dress and whether or not it's appropriate to take photos.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a student intern in a small laboratory. I like my job and get along with everyone who works here. However, there's one woman I can almost never understand. She has an accent, does not articulate her words well and speaks in a low tone of voice.

When I say, "What?" or "Excuse me?" she will repeat what she said, but I still cannot hear her. I have resorted to just laughing when she laughs and trying to avoid her. Luckily, I don't have to work directly with her very often, but I feel bad because I'm not as friendly to her as I am to everyone else. How should I handle this?

—HUH? IN ORLANDO

DEAR HUH? Tell her the truth, that you need her to speak more clearly because you have difficulty understanding her. But do it privately so you won't embarrass her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating an amazing girl, "Nina," for two months, and have fallen madly in love with her. Although contemplating marriage at this point might seem presumptuous, I'm convinced that this is where we're headed.

My concern is Nina's mother, "Joan." Although Joan is fully capable of working, she has chosen to "guilt" Nina into supporting her. She makes little or no financial contribution and works as little as possible. Nina is convinced that her mother is helpless, although Joan has never been diagnosed with a physical or psychological chronic illness.

I'm afraid that if I marry Nina, she will insist that we take care of her mother for the rest of her life. This would take a heavy toll on both the marriage and our finances. How can I make Nina recognize that my concern is valid without having her think I'm heartless?

—THREE'S A CROWD IN NEW YORK

DEAR THREE'S A CROWD: A step in the right direction would be to have a long engagement, and insist that before you tie the knot you have premarital counseling to ensure the two of you are in agreement about what the marriage will involve.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



In this Nov. 5, 2007 file photo, Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler arrives at the Third Annual Classic Rock Roll of Honor at The Landmark Hotel in London.

Braxton's Vegas show canceled

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Las Vegas hotel has announced that the rest of Toni Braxton's scheduled shows have been canceled so the singer can focus on her health.

The show, "Toni Braxton: Revealed," at the Flamingo Las Vegas had been dark since the 40-year-old entertainer was

hospitalized April 7 with what hotel officials said at the time was a complaint of chest pain. The show had been scheduled to resume June 6.

Harrah's Entertainment spokeswoman Deanna Petit says she could not comment on the singer's current medical condi-

tion. Braxton has been treated in the past for pericarditis, a viral inflammation of the heart.

Braxton is a six-time Grammy winner for songs including "Un-break My Heart." Her two-year run at the Flamingo Las Vegas hotel is scheduled to end in August.

on the back of her placard before spelling it correctly.

Sriram Hathwar became the youngest competitor in bee history when he folded his arms and spelled "elicitation." Sriram, from Painted Post, N.Y., turned 8 last month and appeared about half the size of the speller seated next to him.

However, neither Maria Isabel nor Jiwon nor Sriram advanced past the preliminaries,

all having failed to score well enough on the written test that included words such as "pinyin," "eidetic" and "mustard."

While the spellers who survived Thursday's rounds were happy to remain in the running for the title, many expressed an increasingly common sentiment that reflects the bee's popularity.

"I'm glad," Matthew said, "to have made it to ESPN."

McClellan said.

"For me I came to the decision that at that point I needed to look for a way to move on, because it had undermined, I think, a lot of what we had said."

MCCLELLAN

From Page 20

had taken earlier in the week. The top 90 scorers advanced to the quarterfinals.

Two countries were represented for the first time. Maria Isabel Kubabom, a 13-year-old from Ghana, misspelled "seder." Jiwon Seo, 11, from South Korea, used her finger to write "innumerable"

to the president, telling Bush: "He's saying you yourself were the one that authorized the leaking of this information."

"And he said, 'Yeah, I did.' And I was kind of taken aback,"

Pastimes

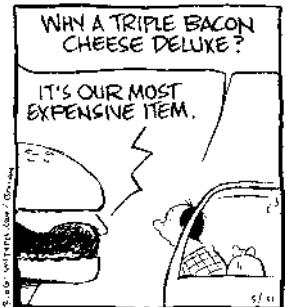
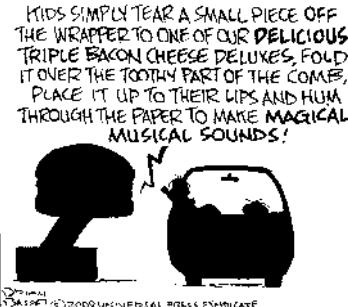
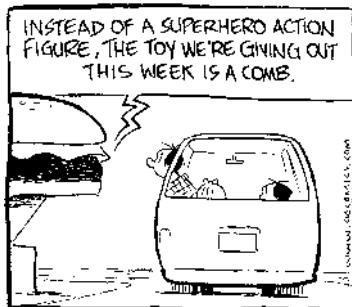
Calvin and Hobbes



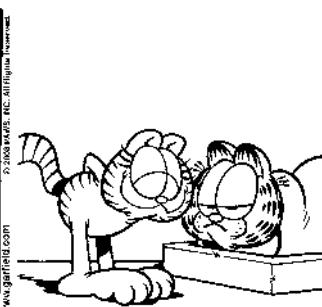
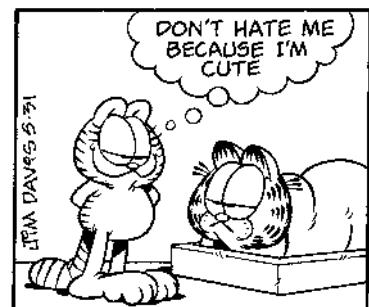
By Bill Waterson



By Bryan Basset

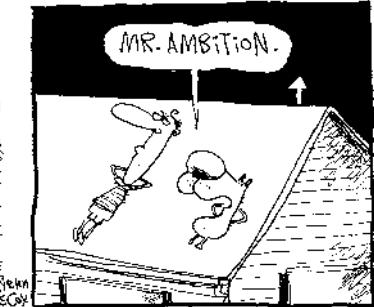
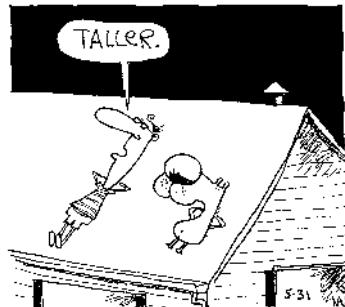
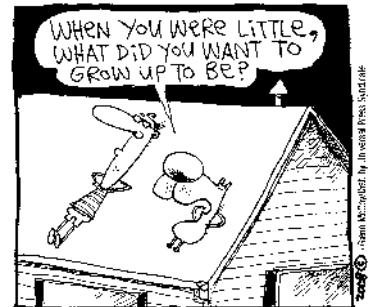


Garfield®



By Jim Davis

The Duplex



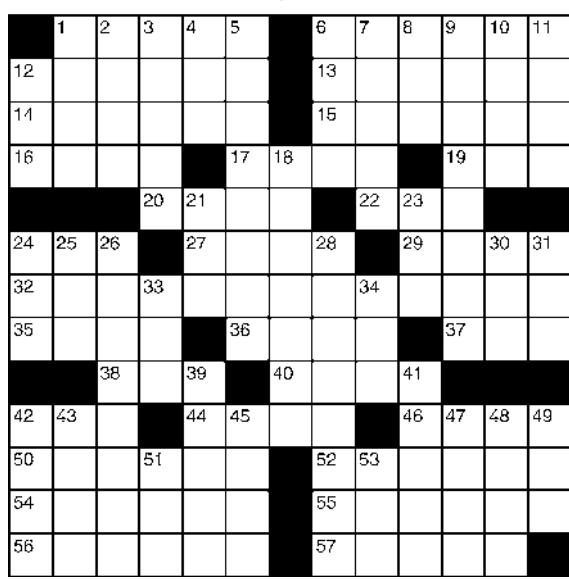
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS									
1 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer	37 Seek restitution	2 Tardy	21 Possessed	23 Ad for a nonprofit, for ex.	24 Lemieux	25 Kvetch	26 Flaw in a plank	28 "Delta of Venus" author	30 Mr. Gehrig
6 Bursts forth	40 Stead	6 Part of HOMES	7 So old it's new again	8 Part of N.A.	9 D.C. business	10 Small Gehrig	31 Indivisible	33 Blond shade	34 "See ya"
12 Big twig	44 Pleasures	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
13 Spa, e.g.	48 "Pleasures	44 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
14 Will subject	52 Made	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
15 Roma's land	54 Quartz, e.g.	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
16 Antelope's playmate	54 Quartz, e.g.	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
17 Layer	55 Queued up	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
19 Charged bit	56 Decathlon segments	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
20 Not barefoot	57 Interminably	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
22 Make up your mind	DOWN	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
24 Squid squirt	1 Gaelic	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
27 Local, in "Onion" headlines	Solution time: 27 mins.	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
29 Grain storage locale	54 Quartz, e.g.	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
32 Breakfast meat	55 Queued up	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
35 Teamwork thwarters	56 Decathlon segments	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments
36 Sculpture medium	57 Interminably	42 "Phooey!"	46 Intl. group	50 Swore	52 Made	53 Notches in land	54 Quartz, e.g.	55 Queued up	56 Decathlon segments

Yesterday's answer 5-31



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 32; Brooke Shields, 43; Lea Thompson, 47; Clint Eastwood, 78

Happy Birthday: Your ingenuity and common sense will lead you in the right direction this year. You will have the courage to ask the necessary questions to understand what you are up against and how best to follow through. This is a year to readjust some of the people and pursuits that have not been working for you. Believe in yourself and don't be afraid of change. Your numbers are 7, 11, 21, 22, 38, 44



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend as much time as possible doing physical activities. The less time you have to think, the better you will do. Don't overreact to unintentional misunderstandings. **★★★**



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spending money for the wrong reason will leave you cash poor. Keep things simple and save. A secret you've been keeping will be revealed and you may be blamed for your involvement. **★★★**



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your power of persuasion, along with a little drama, and you will get whatever you want. A creative approach to something you want to do will gain the interest of one of your peers. A trip or conference could cost you. **★★★**



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You won't take someone's criticism or pushiness with ease. Letting your emotions take over will not help to solve the problem. Your assumption will be wrong—making it necessary for you to make an apology. **★★**



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Jump in and take over. You'll be the hero of the day, displaying your talents and winning admiration and the confidence of the people you deal with. An offer will be made that can lead to more cash but be leery of anyone promising too much. **★★★★**



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel plans are best kept secret. It's the element of surprise that will turn heads. A decision can be made based on what you see and hear. Children, peers, friends or lovers will all have an influence on you today. **★★★**



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get a fix on what everyone else is up to before making a final decision about your itinerary. Adventure, learning something new or being totally creative, passionate and playful should be what draws you the most. Love is in the stars. **★★★**



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are better off using your own means of financial assistance. Getting cash from someone else will turn out to be a headache. If you avoid partnering, you will end up with more in the end. Downsize if you must. **★★★**



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships will have to be handled with kid gloves. Someone you think you know well will do something totally unexpected. A money deal is apparent but make sure it doesn't involve something that may get you into trouble. **★★★**



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't leave anything unfinished, especially when there is so much for you to gain if you fol-

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

low up. If it takes away some time with family or friends, plan something special to make up for lost time. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There won't be any dull moments around your place. Everyone will enjoy what you have to offer, so open your doors and entertain. A question you want to ask will bring the response you are hoping for. Love is looking very passionate. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may think you are up for a challenge but you're probably not as prepared as you need be. Playing fairly will be the only route to take. Trying to manipulate whatever situation you face will backfire, leaving you in an awkward and vulnerable position. **★★★**

Birthday Baby: You welcome a challenge and are a quick study. You are creative, spontaneous and react immediately to what you see, hear and experience.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

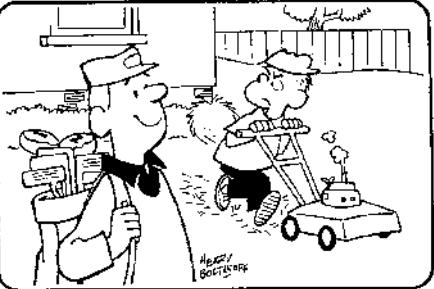
HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FINE DINING

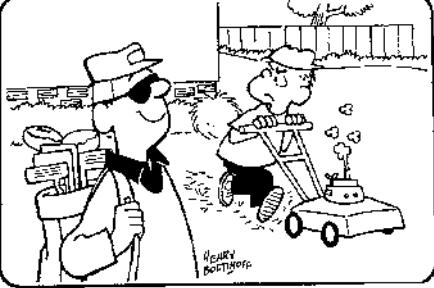
Y	C	R	E	R	S	S	E	L	F	E	E	B	G	S
L	C	O	I	L	E	U	U	N	E	V	O	A	K	S
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E	H	C	I	F	U	T	P	E	I	T	O	P	T	R
V	C	P	O	R	E	L	S	E	R	C	H	H	R	E
A	S	R	I	N	E	E	L	O	N	I	T	O	S	S
E	M	O	I	A	N	B	N	U	S	S	O	L	S	S
H	U	W	S	I	A	O	G	T	F	A	I	R	E	E
S	S	I	S	T	M	O	I	E	N	E	V	V	R	D
A	N	I	A	E	U	C	A	S	Y	A	T	O	E	U
G	U	L	F	R	A	S	R	C	S	L	G	S	R	R
C	A	O	M	T	T	O	N	E	S	E	B	E	A	Y
P	O	E	E	I	A	A	A	N	A	O	U	B	L	T
D	T	D	M	S	F	E	H	C	L	T	U	R	U	E
K	A	E	T	S	C	H	O	I	C	E	P	T	B	

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Beef, Bubbly, Chef, Chic, Classy

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Wishing Well®

3	6	7	2	5	3	8	7	6	8	3	2	4
S	S	V	T	C	E	A	I	T	N	A	I	Y
6	4	7	4	3	5	7	4	2	3	5	2	6
A	O	C	U	R	O	T	G	M	C	L	E	R
4	5	8	3	4	3	4	8	4	5	4	2	7
E	L	E	H	T	F	A	W	N	E	S	T	O
2	6	5	3	5	3	4	8	5	7	8	7	3
O	T	G	O	E	R	W	B	B	R	E	Y	T
2	4	2	3	2	4	3	4	6	3	5	7	6
C	E	H	H	A	R	E	S	A	T	O	R	N
7	8	3	7	3	7	5	7	5	8	3	5	2
E	G	R	L	U	I	U	S	N	I	T	D	N
3	8	6	8	2	7	2	7	6	8	7	8	8
H	N	E	N	G	H	E	E	W	I	D	N	G

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Differences: 1. Men is wearing sunglasses. 2. Window is missing from motor. 3. Bus has added along fence. 4. More smoke coming from motor. 5. Zip missing from grill. 6. More smoke missing. 7. Men is wearing sunglasses. 8. Window is missing from motor. 9. Bus has added along fence. 10. More smoke coming from motor.

Super Crossword HOG WASH

56	Salute for Caesar	98	Cheerless Waughs	8	One-dimensiona	43	— major	82	Cart
57	Ukrainian city	99	Label	45	Like some leaves	44	Cart	85	Nursery items
58	Peepers, to Pope	100	Elegant	46	Chew out	45	Desert	86	Hotel
59	serving	101	carrier	47	Sheltered spot	46	refugees	87	Desert town
60	Poe crow	102	Salchow kin	48	Get Shorty"	47	Lanka	88	— the
61	Aint right?	103	Sludge	49	Happening	48	falls we go ...	89	— the
62	Type of cabbage	104	Bloomsbury buggy	50	Russo of	49	Dutch	90	— the
63	Part of NB	105	Bookstore	51	Hamlet or Herman	50	USS Nimitz?	91	— the
64	High-rise building?	106	section	52	Mosher	51	— the	92	— the
65	3 Part of a remark	107	12 Actress	53	Maintain	52	— the	93	— the
66	French spa	108	Cassidy	54	Bezel	53	— the	94	— the
67	Rain heavily	109	Managers	55	Dolbels	54	— the	95	— the
68	Gob	110	112	56	opera	55	— the	96	— the
69	Start of a remark	111	Actress	56	composer	56	— the	97	— the
70	Emark	112	Cassidy	57	80	57	— the	98	— the
71	Asian holiday	113	MD's area	58	Straker	58	— the	99	— the
72	Prickly plant	114	Riser's relative	59	(1905 tune)	59	— the	100	— the
73	Holiday award?	115	124	60	Butcher	60	— the	101	— the
74	Shake — (hurry)	116	Home on the range?	61	shop	61	— the	102	— the
75	Depraved	117	125	62	display	62	— the	103	— the
76	Pile up	118	So there!"	63	Wimbledon	63	— the	104	— the
77	Squire's stash	119	126	64	winner	64	— the	105	— the
78	Snake-charmer's crew	120	127	65	Age	65	— the	106	— the
79	Outcast	121	At daybreak	66	Garlic hater	66	— the	107	— the
80	Globe	122	128	67	Bad start	67	— the	108	— the
81	Riyadh religion	123	Gushes	68	Contented sigh	68	— the	109	— the
82	Damons or Dana	124	129	69	— d'Alene, ID	69	— the	110	— the
83	Part 2 of a remark	125	130	70	52	53	— the	111	— the
84	Neighbor of Fla.	126	131	71	Winter Olympics	71	— the	112	— the
85	Rice dish	127	132	72	Spill the beans	72	— the	113	— the
86	Waikiki wing-ding	128	133	73	41	120	— the	114	— the
87				74	59	121	— the		
88				75	60	122	— the		
89				76	61	123	— the		
90				77	62	124	— the		
91				78	63	125	— the		
92				79	64	126	— the		
93				80	65	127	— the		
94				81	66	128	— the		
95				82	67				
96				83	68				
97				84	69				
98				85	70				
99				86	71				
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- MOVIES: What was the title of the first Pink Panther movie?
- MILITARY: What kind of ship is the USS Nimitz?
- LITERATURE: How many students participated in the Triwizard Tournament in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"?
- TELEVISION: What is the profession of the men portrayed in the reality show "Deadliest Catch"?
- MEDICAL: What causes the condition known as hypothermia?
- SCIENCE: How many horns did the dinosaur called a triceratops have?
- MATH: How many faces does a cube have?
- U.S. HISTORY: Who was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence?
- QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "In politics, absurdity is not a handicap."
- TIME ZONES: What time zone is most of the state of Nevada in?

10. Public
9. Napoleon Bonaparte
8. John Hancock
7. Three
6. Extreme cold
5. Four
4. Fifer
3. Four
2. New York City
1. "The Pink Panther"

ANSWERS



Amber Waves

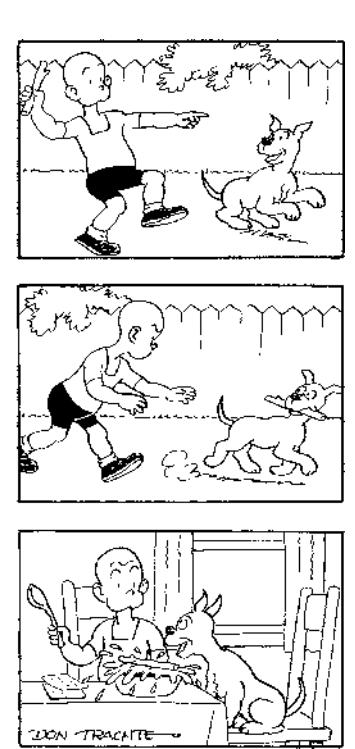
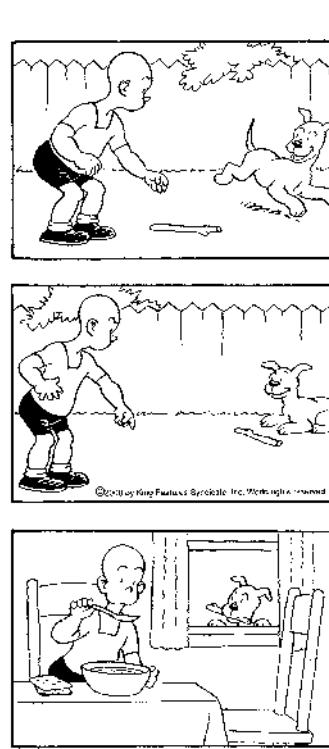
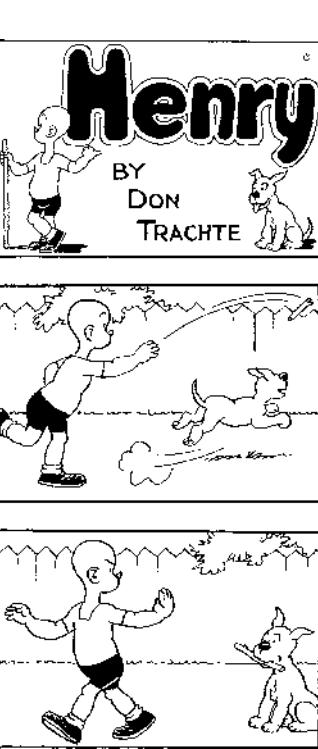
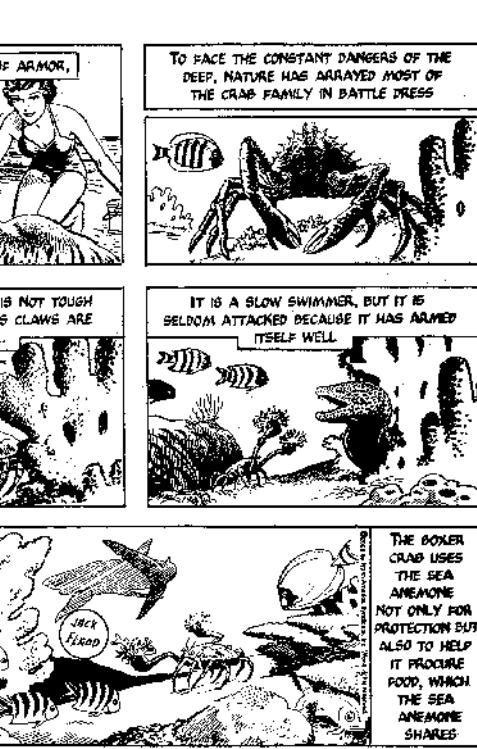


by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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D.O.B : Dec. 27, 1954
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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Bryant leads Lakers past Spurs and into NBA finals



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers dispatched the defending champions, and are headed to the NBA finals for the first time in four years.

Bryant scored 17 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, and the Lakers rallied from an early 17-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 100-92 on Thursday night and win the Western Conference finals in five games.

The Lakers are 12-3 in the playoffs, including 8-0 at Staples Center, where they haven't lost in two months. They have won 14 straight home games and 21 of their last 24 postseason games at home.

They get a week off before opening the NBA finals next Thursday night at Boston or Detroit. The Celtics lead the Eastern Conference finals 3-2 with Game 6 on Friday night.

A basket by Lamar Odom gave the Lakers an 83-76 lead with 5:40 remaining, but a 3-pointer by Brent Barry and a basket by Tony Parker drew the Spurs within two points. Manu Ginobili missed a 3-pointer that could have given San Antonio the lead before Bryant's jumper with 3:33 to play made it 85-81.

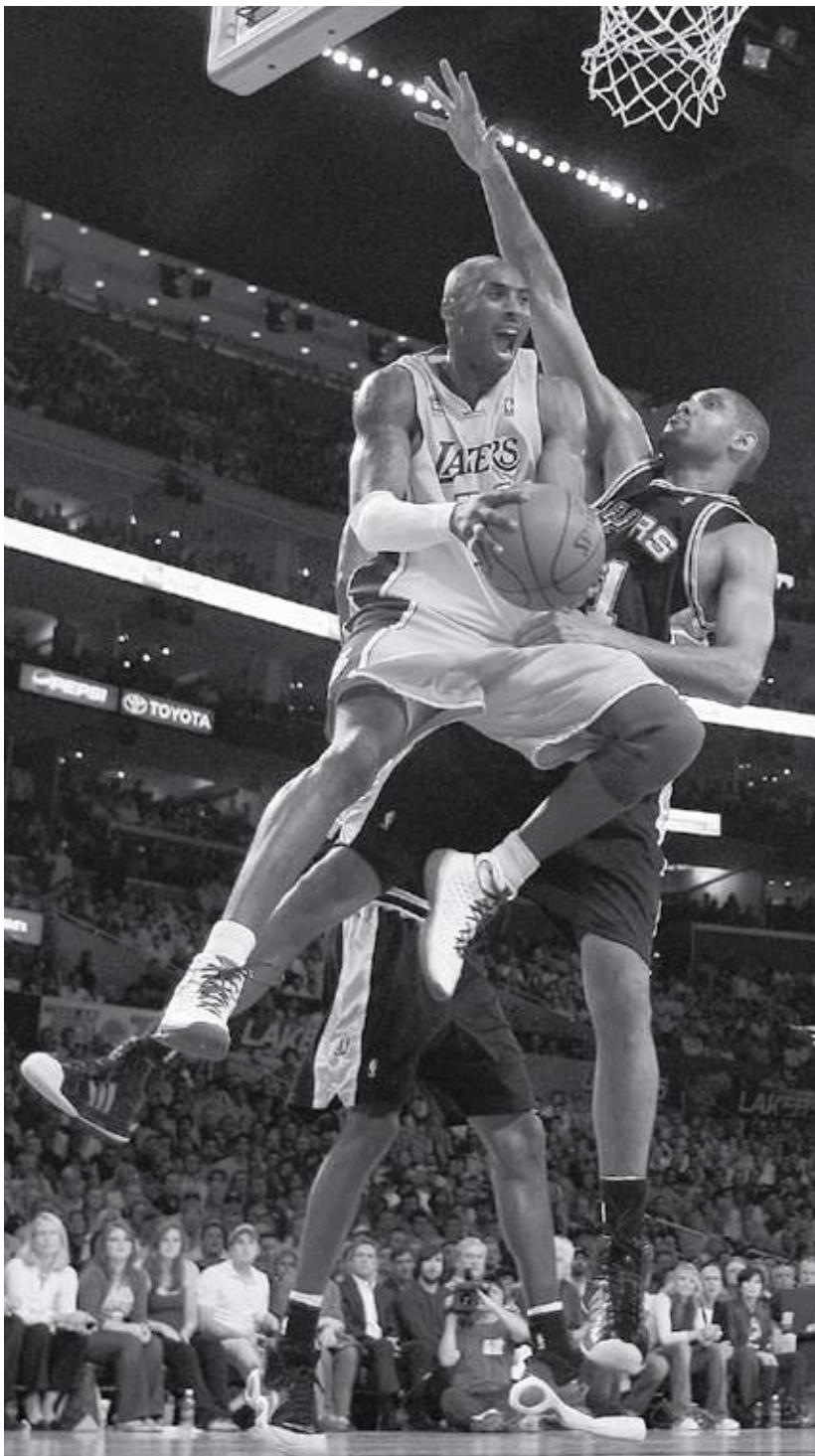
A foul shot by Duncan drew the Spurs within three, but two more baskets by Bryant made it 89-82 with 1:47 to play, and the Spurs weren't closer than five points after that.

Odom added 13 points and eight rebounds, while Pau Gasol had 12 points, a career playoff-high 19 rebounds and five assists for the Lakers.

Parker scored 23 points and Tim Duncan had 19 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for the Spurs. Michael Finley scored 13 points, Barry and Kurt Thomas added 11 each and Ginobili was held to nine, shooting just 3-for-9.

The Lakers clinched their berth in the finals a year to the day after Bryant called the team's front office "a mess" during a radio interview. A day later, he demanded a trade, ultimately saying he preferred playing on Pluto rather than returning to the team he joined as an 18-year-old in 1996.

The situation calmed down until Lakers owner Jerry Buss told reporters during training camp in October he was listening to offers for Bryant, angering



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, left, drives to the basket against San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan in the third quarter of Game 5 of the NBA Western Conference finals at Staples Center in Los Angeles, Thursday, May 29, 2008.

the superstar once again.

But once the season began, Bryant bonded with his teammates, led the Lakers to the No. 1 seed in the rugged West and won his first MVP award.

The Lakers will be playing in the finals for the 23rd time since moving from Minneapolis to Los Angeles in

1961 and the 29th time overall. They have won 14 championships—nine in Los Angeles and five in Minneapolis.

The Lakers and the Celtics have met 10 times in the finals, with Boston winning the first eight matchups and Los Angeles the last two—in 1985 and 1987. That's the last time the Celtics

advanced to the championship round.

The Lakers and Pistons have met three times in the finals, most recently in 2004, when Detroit won in five games. Shaquille O'Neal, who teamed with Bryant to lead the Lakers to three straight championships starting in 2000, was traded a month later, and the Lakers hadn't won a postseason series since until last month.

San Antonio's elimination might signal the end of its era of dominance. With Duncan leading the way, the Spurs won championships in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007, but with a rotation made up solely of 30-something players except for the 26-year-old Parker, the future seems uncertain.

Meanwhile, starting guard Derek Fisher and seldom-used reserve Ira Newble are the only players on the Los Angeles roster over 30.

Ultimately, it was the Lakers' youth, quickness and athleticism that determined this series. The turning point occurred in Game 1, when the Spurs took a 20-point third-quarter lead before the Lakers outscored them 44-20 for an 89-85 victory.

San Antonio had a shot in Game 4, but the Lakers held on for a 93-91 victory that put the Spurs on the brink of elimination. And that came Thursday night.

A 3-pointer by Luke Walton and baskets by Jordan Farmar and Bryant gave the Lakers a 74-68 lead with 8 1/2 minutes remaining, and they were on top the rest of the way.

The Spurs led by as many as 10 points early in the third quarter, but the Lakers turned up their defensive intensity during a 19-8 run that gave them a 61-60 lead—their first since the opening minute. Bryant scored nine points during the spurt. Los Angeles led 64-63 entering the final period.

The Spurs got 3-pointers from Finley, Ginobili and Barry during a 15-1 run that gave them a 33-16 lead early in the second quarter. The Lakers went nearly 7 1/2 minutes without a field goal until Farmar scored three straight baskets to trim San Antonio's lead to 11.

It was 46-31 before the Lakers went on an 11-2 run to finish the second quarter, cutting the Spurs' lead to 48-42.

The Lakers wound up shooting 38-for-85 while the Spurs went 36-for-74.

NBA BRIEFS

Collins considers Bulls job

CHICAGO (AP)—Doug Collins talked with the Chicago Bulls about returning to the team as coach, but said Thursday there is no agreement. Known for his emotional style, Collins also coached the Detroit Pistons and the Washington Wizards. The Bulls had been interested in Mike D'Antoni before he took the New York Knicks job. "I have spoken with Bulls management recently about their head coaching vacancy and will resume conversations after the conclusion of my work for TNT in the Western Conference finals," Collins said in a statement from Los Angeles, where he was to work Game 5 of the Spurs-Lakers series. "There is no agreement in place." The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported on its Web site Thursday that the job would go to Collins, who previously coached the Bulls from 1986-89 with a 137-109 record. He was replaced by Phil Jackson, who coached the Michael Jordan-led Bulls to six championships in the 1990s. Chicago has had a vacancy since interim coach Jim Boylan was fired after the end of a disappointing 33-49 season. Boylan had replaced Scott Skiles, who was fired on Christmas Eve of last year.

Chicago has a nucleus of young talent and also won the recent draft lottery, giving the Bulls the No. 1 pick in next month's draft.

Pistons' Hamilton questionable with injured elbow

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Pistons don't know if Richard Hamilton will be healthy enough to play against the Boston Celtics on Friday. Detroit's leading scorer strained his right elbow in the final seconds of Boston's 106-102 win on Wednesday night. X-rays were negative, and Hamilton's arm was in a sling as he left the arena. Coach Flip Saunders says Hamilton is scheduled for an evaluation Thursday, but his status won't be determined until Friday when the Pistons host the Celtics in Game 6. Detroit needs a win to extend the Eastern Conference finals.

Goggin leads Kelly, Perry by 1 shot at Memorial



DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Jack Nicklaus always envisioned the Memorial as a northern version of the Masters, from the superb course conditions to super slick greens, from caddies wearing white coveralls to grounds so immaculate that nary a cigarette butt is to be found.

He got his wish Thursday, at least with the greens.

Mathew Goggin spent as little time on them as possible, taking only nine putts over his final nine holes on his way to a 7-under 65 and a one-shot lead over Jerry Kelly and two-time Memorial champion Kenny Perry.

Goggin holed out a bunker shot for birdie on the par-3 fourth, then ended his round with a 12-footer for par from off the green, giving him only 22 putts for his round.

"Is that possible?" Goggin said when told he had nine putts on his back nine.

Strangely enough, he was 3 under playing his best golf, then hit some loose shots that produced four birdies over the final six holes.

"It was one of those bizarre days where I didn't drop any shots coming in with the poorly played holes," he said.

Perry found the right speed and ran off six straight birdies on his way to a 66, also taking 22 putts. Kelly birdied four of his last six holes. Ten other players also managed to break 70 on a day when the average score was 73.7.

Most everyone else hung on for dear life.

Shaun Micheel had a 55-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole that traveled 35 yards back into the fairway. Boo Weekley watched a wedge land near the hole at the par-5 11th, only to spin back to the front of the green, off the green and into the creek for a triple bogey.

"The greens are the best greens I've ever putted on anywhere in the world,"

Robert Allenby said after a 69. "You can take Royal Melbourne, you take Augusta ... these are the best."

Perry could not have agreed more.

The two-time Memorial champion, who twice has given himself a chance to win this month, knocked in an 8-foot birdie on No. 11, and his next five birdies were holed from 18 feet or longer, a streak that ended on No. 17.

"I was shocked when the one on 17 didn't go in," Perry said. "Awesome day, though."

The greens rolled as true as a billiards table, and some players said they were the fastest they have seen all year, including that tournament at Augusta National last month. That was largely a product of spectacular weather at Muirfield Village, a rarity.

"The greens are so fast, you can't believe it," Brett Quigley said after his 67, which included five straight birdies to close out his front nine. "The whole

day, you're playing defensive, even on uphill putts."

Phil Mickelson, coming off a victory at the Colonial, had a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 9 that went 12 feet by an onto the fringe, leading to a final bogey and an even-par 72.

"The speed is quick, obviously," he said. "Some putts are very tough, obviously."

Mickelson got an early glimpse of the speed on his opening hole, when he faced a bunker shot left of the green. Sergio Garcia was marking his ball some 20 feet left of the flag when Mickelson motioned that he was aiming in that direction. He played at a 45-degree angle from the flag, ran the shot some 40 feet by to a ridge, then watched it roll back and graze the edge of the cup.

"We almost had another 'shot of the week' on consecutive holes," caddie Jim Mackay said, referring to Mickelson's wedge through the trees

to 9 feet for birdie to win the Colonial on Sunday.

Garcia, playing for the first time since winning The Players Championship, ran off three straight birdies toward the conclusion of his round until twice trying to play out of the bank of the water on No. 9, only once successfully. He finished with a double bogey for a 72.

"Even though I played well, it felt like you couldn't—you didn't," he said. "There were very little chances of giving yourself a putt you could go for. It's just not easy. Unfortunately that double on the last, after all the work I did, that didn't feel that good."

The greens were so fast that rules officials also were on the defensive, having to abandon several hole locations to keep it fair. One possibility was the front of the 11th green, because any putt above the hole could run off the green and into the creek.

Blake out in 2nd round of French Open



PARIS (AP)—James Blake's frustration rose to a crescendo Thursday.

The top U.S. man in the French Open was talking to himself, and the words were growing louder. He was bothered by the clay underfoot. By the chair umpire. By his own play. And, most of all, by the drop shots and assorted other winners his up-and-coming foe produced.

For the fifth time in six career trips to Roland Garros, Blake departed before the third round, losing this time to 80th-ranked Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. It was part of a 1-3 showing by American men Thursday, when Mardy Fish and Bobby Reynolds also lost.

The 88th-ranked Robby Ginepri knocked off No. 27 Igor Andreev 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-2 to join Wayne Odesnik as the only players from the United States in the third round.

"Americans a lot of times don't have the highest expectations on clay," the No. 7-seeded Blake said. "But I really felt like this match today was a match I could have won."

There were moments, if ever so brief, that similar thoughts ran through the minds of the men facing No. 1 Roger Federer and No. 2 Rafael Nadal.

Federer's opponent, 60th-ranked Albert Montanes of Spain, staked himself to a one-set lead—and then was overwhelmed the rest of the way in a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-0, 6-4 victory for the owner of 12 Grand Slam titles.

Nadal's opponent, 148th-ranked Nicolas Devilder of France, was one point from serving for the first set, holding a break point at 4-all—and then was completely overwhelmed the rest of the way in a 6-4, 6-0, 6-1 victory for the owner of the past three French Open titles.

"His forehand was not a big problem for me to start with. And I thought, 'Why not? Why not?'" Devilder said. And then?



AP USA's James Blake reacts as he plays Latvia's Ernest Gulbis during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament, Thursday May 29, 2008 at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

"The games go by so quickly," he said. "They go by so quickly, and you think: 'When is it going to end?'"

Nadal improved to 23-0 at Roland Garros and said he's "improving with each match."

Federer, meanwhile, called his outing "a good test."

He saved all six break points he faced, including two during a rain shower while trailing 5-4 in the first set. After a 1 1/2-hour rain delay—making

it the fourth of the tournament's five days with wet weather—he came out and lost the tiebreaker.

But as Federer put it: "Bounced back strong."

Talk about understatement. From Montanes' perspective, Federer was "like a hurricane. I couldn't do anything. You can tell that he's here to win this tournament."

In the third round at the only major tournament he hasn't won, Federer faces a familiar foe: Mario Ancic of Croatia, the last man to beat him at Wimbledon, back in 2002.

Blake's exit in the second round in Paris—only in 2006 did he make it to the third—was followed shortly by that of No. 6 David Nalbandian. Unlike Blake, Nalbandian has had success at the French Open, twice reaching the semifinals, but the Argentine wasted a two-set lead—and four break points in the opening game of the third set—and was eliminated 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 by Jeremy Chardy of France.

"The best match I've ever played," said Chardy, a wild-card entry who had won only two tour-level matches in his career before this tournament—and now has doubled that total.

The 19-year-old Gulbis is more experienced than that, but not by much. He moved to Munich when he was 12 to work with Niki Pilic, the same coach who helped mold Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic.

"We were practicing a little bit together when we were kids. I was 12, 13, and he was a little bit older," Gulbis said of Djokovic. "He was more serious than me at that age."

Against Blake, it was Gulbis who seemed to have a better grasp of when to go for winners and when to wait for the right opening.

Blake groused afterward about hearing "too many commentators" and "people that talk about tennis that don't play tennis" say he should tone down his aggressiveness and make fewer errors.

Gulbis' frustration, apparently, was his approach Thursday.

"Today was a perfect example of what not to do," said Blake, who compiled far fewer winners (54-29) and unforced errors (33-16) than Gulbis. "Just being a little too passive."

While both rely on powerful forehands, it was Gulbis who displayed a knack for nuance, repeatedly using drop shots against the speedy Blake. Not all worked, of course, but Gulbis did end six points with drop winners, including when he broke Blake to claim the third set.

"It paid off in a lot of situations," Gulbis said.

Blake's take?

"I was angry that I wasn't doing anything with them. ... That's probably just not growing up on clay and not being as comfortable in those situations," Blake said. "That's maybe something I need to work on."

Maria Sharapova still has some kinks to work out with her serve, because she served another four double-faults and was broken three times—and her match didn't even finish. She was leading Bethanie Mattek of the U.S. 6-2, 2-3 when play was suspended because of darkness.

Venus Williams and Jelena Jankovic played in the morning and won in straight sets, while No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze—who is hiring Justine Henin's coach, Carlos Rodriguez—and two-time major champion Amelie Mauresmo all lost.

Williams used a six-game streak to take control and beat 241st-ranked qualifier Selima Sfar of Tunisia 6-2, 6-4. Jankovic was troubled by a painful right forearm but defeated Marina Erakovic of New Zealand 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Mauresmo, who was seeded 22nd but never has enjoyed much success at her home country's major championship, barely put up a fight in a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

"All I can say," the Frenchwoman sighed, "is that I feel sorry about the way I played."

Wright hits 2 HRs off Penny, Mets beat Torre, Dodgers, 8-4



NEW YORK (AP)—David Wright hit two

homers off Brad Penny and the newly inspired New York Mets dampened Joe Torre's return home, defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 Thursday.

Always popular in town, Torre managed his first game in New York since parting ways with the Yankees last October. Many fans in the crowd of 52,886 at Shea Stadium stood and cheered when he made a pitching change in the seventh inning, and Torre waved and doffed his cap.

Wright drew two big ovations for his first multihomer game of the season and eighth of his career. He picked on a familiar victim, improving to 11-for-19 (.579) with four home runs and five walks against Penny (5-6).

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 3
At Phoenix, Randy Johnson fanned nine to tie Roger Clemens for second in career strikeouts, but Arizona's bullpen blew a lead and Randy Winn's ninth-inning homer gave San Francisco the win.

Tony Pena walked in the tying run in the eighth, then Chad Qualls (0-5) gave up the homer to Winn. Arizona

was swept for the second time in three series and has dropped eight of 10.

Johnson, who left the game with a 3-2 lead after seven innings, has struck out 19—in 13 innings—in his last two starts to tie Clemens with 4,672 strikeouts.

Pirates 7, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, Jason Bay and Xavier Nady each had a homer and a double to help Pittsburgh snap Cincinnati's home winning streak at nine games.

The Reds couldn't extend their best home winning streak in 28 years because they couldn't do anything against Phil Dumatrait (2-2). The left-hander allowed one unearned run and two hits in seven innings, beating the team that let him get away last October.

The Reds' pitching staff was in disarray following an 18-inning loss in San

Diego on Sunday. Starters Aaron Harang and Edinson Volquez wound up pitching in relief, throwing everybody's routine off. Harang (2-7) lasted only four innings and give up a season-high six runs.

Braves 8, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Mark Teixeira homered and drove in four runs and reliever-turned-starter Jorge Campillo's first ca-

reer hit scored two more to lift Atlanta over Milwaukee.

Chipper Jones went 2-for-4 with two walks to raise his major league leading average to .420 and help the Braves avoid being swept for the third time this season.

Campillo (2-0) also got his first RBI in his fourth career start after notching his first win against the Mets on May 20. The 29-year-old righty struck out six and ran his scoreless innings streak as a starter to 14 before allowing a solo homer in the fifth to Russell Branyan.

Cubs 8, Rockies 4

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano's two-run single capped a late charge for the streaking Chicago, which scored five runs in the last two innings as Colorado pitchers committed two errors.

The Rockies lost their fourth straight and ninth in a row on the road.

Matt Herges (2-2) picked up the loss in relief of Jeff Francis, who gave up three runs and six hits over five innings.

Padres 5, Nationals 2

At San Diego, Jody Gerut hit a three-run homer with one out in the eighth inning to help San Diego take two of three in a

matchup of last-place teams.

Gerut's second homer of the season came three batters after Washington's Ryan Langerhans made a spectacular leaping catch to rob Kevin Kouzmanoff of a home run leading off the eighth inning. Langerhans got his glove above the wall to snag Kouzmanoff's drive.

Cardinals 3, Astros 2

At St. Louis, Kyle Lohse carried a shutout into the seventh inning and Albert Pujols homered to cap a 6-for-10 series, helping the St. Louis beat Houston.

Chris Duncan has a two-run single with the bases loaded in the first for the Cardinals.

Roy Oswalt (4-5) allowed three runs in seven innings, losing to the Cardinals for the first time in 11 starts dating to Sept. 27, 2005.

Lohse (5-2) opened with six scoreless innings before Carlos Lee homered to make it 3-1.

Twins 5, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Kevin Slowey pitched a six-hitter and Carlos Gomez had four hits and two RBIs as the Chicago White Sox sent the punchless Kansas City Royals to their 11th loss in a row.

The 11-game skid is the longest in the

majors this year and Kansas City's worst since a 13-game skid May 12-25, 2006.

White Sox 5, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, the American League Central-leading Chicago White Sox won the first Tropicana Field game between teams in sole possession of first place in their divisions, cooling off the AL East-leading Rays.

The AL Central leaders won the first Tropicana Field game between teams in sole possession of first place in their divisions Thursday night, cooling off the AL East-leading Rays 5-1 before a crowd of 12,636.

Blue Jays 12, Athletics 0

At Oakland, California, Jesse Litsch won his fifth straight decision and extended his scoreless streak to 16 innings and Rod Barajas had three doubles and drove in three runs.

Litsch (7-1), coming off a seven-hit shutout of Kansas City on Saturday, hasn't lost in seven starts since a defeat at Tampa Bay on April 22. He allowed seven hits in seven innings, struck out three and walked one in throwing a season-high 108 pitches.

Dana Eveland (4-4) allowed a career-high seven earned runs.

Barangay Ginebra on a roll, wins 3rd straight

MANILA, Philippines—Enjoying the stride and confidence lacking in its game early in the tourney, Barangay Ginebra still found a way to win and sustain its streak Wednesday despite league leading scorer Mark Caguioa



hurting his knee and sitting out the final half of a tight, exciting contest versus Magnolia.

Jayjay Helterbrand, Chris Alexander, Junthy Valenzuela and Ronald Tubid did the job for

the team in the second half as the Kings whipped the Beverage Masters, 87-76, for a third straight victory in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

NINE

From Page 28

freestyle as well as the 50m and 100m breaststroke.

Stewart said he expects all nine swimmers to swim their best during the meet. He said there is no pressure for them to bring home a bumper-crop of medals and added that the important thing is for them to eclipse their previous best times.

"The kids have worked hard, and this is the season finale. So we are looking for all athletes to have LTBs (life time bests) around the board. Medal count is secondary, with their best performances the medals will come," he said.

KOREAN

From Page 28

half the time, as attested by his .523 average (23-for-44).

Byron Kaipat of Rock Steady is the only other player batting in the .500 range after going 16-for-32 in nine games.

D-9ers teammates Tony Camacho (16-for-35) and Greg Camacho (13-for-28) are tied with .464 batting average, while Rock Steady's Tony Celis complete the Top 5 in batting with a

BOYER

From Page 28

While he and Camacho were initially scheduled to play last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts, Mother Nature intervened and pushed it to Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Rain again interrupted the continuation of the game and the finals only finally got underway on Wednesday night.

The two-hour reservation at the Garapan landmark, however, only allowed Boyer and Camacho to finish one and a quarter set and the two agreed to continue the game the next day, Thursday, with Boyer in

firm control of the match, leading 6-4, 2-1.

But it turned out that Boyer was too bogged down with work on the assigned day and time that he himself reached out to Camacho to inform him that he was forfeiting the rest of the match to the youngster.

In other championship matches of the 2008 edition of the DFS Micronesia Tennis Championships, Ji Hoon Heo won the men's open title without even lifting his racquet as his finals opponent, Jeff Race, was too sick to play last Monday.

Mayuko Arriola, meanwhile, hoisted the women's open tiara after beating fellow teenage tennis sensation, Vivien Lee, in another finals match

"My concern right now is to get the flow. Yun muna ang gusto naming makuhang bago isipin ang paghabol doon sa mga teams na nasa itaas. If we can get the flow of things, winning would come later," said

that needed more than one day to complete.

Arriola and Lee started their finals match last Monday at the PIC tennis court but rain showers postponed it to the next day, Tuesday, and Arriola finally prevailed following a tough three-set contest, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

Lope Padilla (men's 4.5), Dodong Salinas (men's 3.0), J.W. Jang (men's 40-and-over), Dinalet Jones (women's 3.0/2.0), Heo and Cody Race (boys' 16-and-under), Clay McCullough-Stearns (boys' 12-and-under), and Mikayla Lopez and Kris Obaldo (girls' 12-and-under) also won their respective divisions last Sunday.

RIGHT

From Page 28

strikes in baseball. It's a definition that moves and morphs, not just over long periods of time, but from game to game, from league to league, from ump to ump. It is, as everybody says now, what it is. And it shouldn't be considered in a vacuum. The Spurs wouldn't have been within two points if something quite objective had been called correctly.

That whole sequence began with Fisher missing a shot, which was ruled an air ball, when it in fact hit the rim. The Lakers should have retained possession with the shot clock turned off. Instead Kobe Bryant had to force a shot that missed, giving the Spurs a final possession they didn't earn and shouldn't have had.

So in the end it evened out.

And it also obscured something else that was far more serious than whether Barry was fouled.

The referee who didn't make the foul call, Joey Crawford, should not have been working the game in the first place.

Little more than a year ago, the NBA suspended Crawford for throwing Tim Duncan out of a game essentially because Duncan laughed at Crawford—in other words, Crawford ejected

ed him needlessly. It was the last straw for the league and for Commissioner David Stern, who, quite understandably given previous warnings, sent Crawford to the sideline for the rest of the season.

The NBA, more than any other professional league in this country, is concerned about its image. That's why Stern and the league instituted a player dress code a couple of years ago, then sought to crack down on arguing with referees during games. The NBA is annoyed to no end, also understandably, about the notion that results are manipulated to favor the biggest stars and teams in the biggest or most glamorous markets. Every columnist in the country, this one included, has received at one time or another a phone call from the league asking to not use the "C" word, or conspiracy ... as in, "You know the NBA had Joey Crawford work that game because they already know he hates the Spurs and the league wants the Lakers in the Finals anyway."

Everybody in the NBA anticipates these conversations, and cringes at anyone having such a perception.

It's not about whether Crawford can work the game fairly. Of course he can. He's one of the best referees the league has had, and certainly one of its best

now. The Spurs did Crawford (and the league) a huge favor after the game by refusing to make the non-call an issue. Every Spurs player I saw interviewed, starting with Barry, said, "That's not going to be called at that point of the game."

Still, why assign Crawford to Game 5 of a series with a team he was so notoriously involved with just last season? Why allow people the chance to harbor such a perception? Why, when your league is still reeling from the Tim Donaghy betting scandal, would you not go to the ends of the earth to avoid any appearance of impropriety, no matter how small. And why put Crawford in such a position?

Any controversy at all involving the Spurs was going to leave him vulnerable, and everybody in the NBA office had to know that. There's another playoff series, the one here between the Pistons and Celtics, he can work. And now, with the Spurs teetering on the brink of elimination, he can work the Finals without the Spurs.

It was terrible judgment to send Crawford to San Antonio. A lot more egregious than not calling a foul on Fisher.

It's as subjective as anything in sports, calling a foul. You can't get a consensus from people who've been in and around

the game for 100 years. Former coach Hubie Brown, now an analyst for ABC and ESPN, said here Wednesday night: "No question that was a foul on the floor (meaning before the shot). He should have been shooting two foul shots." Brown thought it should have been called a foul, as did former coach Avery Johnson, as did former coach Jeff Van Gundy. But Mark Jackson said no way, no foul. And get this: Jon Barry, Brent's brother, said no call was the right call. The debate raged all afternoon, into the evening. The difference of opinion demonstrates how difficult it is to call fouls in certain situations.

Contact that might be called in the first quarter isn't a foul in the fourth. A smack on the elbow of a scrub has never been treated the same way as a smack on the elbow of a megastar. Ask Bryon Russell if Michael Jordan pushed off before taking and hitting "The Shot" in 1998. The Spurs know all about tough rulings, considering they benefited from one last year at the expense of the Phoenix Suns on the way to an NBA championship. Whatever whining you hear from coast to coast about the foul that never was, it's quite honorable that none of it is coming from the dressing room of the Spurs.

Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

Ginebra 87 – Helterbrand 23, Alexander 20, Valenzuela 13, Tubid 9, Artadi 6, Mamaril 6, Caguioa 6, Menk 2, Crisano 2, Salvacion 0.

Magnolia 76 – Watkins 22,

Pingris 17, Cortez 10, Tugade 9, Hontiveros 6, Racela 5, Seigle 5, Ildefonso 2, Villanueva 0, Calaguio 0, Pena 0.

Quarterscores: 24-24, 41-41, 60-54, 87-76. (www.pba.com.ph)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
32	22	.593	—
32	24	.571	1
30	26	.536	3
26	26	.500	5
26	27	.491	5 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	30	23	.566	—
Minnesota	28	25	.528	2
Cleveland	24	29	.453	6
Detroit	22	31	.415	8
Kansas City	21	33	.389	9 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	32	23	.582	—
Oakland	29	25	.537	2 1/2
Texas	27	28	.491	5
Seattle	20	34	.370	11 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	30	22	.577	—
Philadelphia	31	24	.564	1/2
Atlanta	29	25	.537	2
New York	26	26	.500	4
Washington	23	32	.418	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	33	21	.611	—
St. Louis	32	23	.582	1 1/2
Houston	30	25	.545	3 1/2
Milwaukee	26	28	.481	7
Pittsburgh	25	28	.472	7 1/2
Cincinnati	25	29	.463	8

West Division

Arizona	30	24	.556	—
Los Angeles	26	27	.491	3 1/2
San Francisco	23	31	.426	7
San Diego	21	34	.382	9 1/2
Colorado	20	34	.370	10

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 8, Milwaukee 1

San Diego 5, Washington 2

N.Y. Mets 8, L.A. Dodgers 4

Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 2

Chicago Cubs 8, Colorado 4

St. Louis 3, Houston 2

San Francisco 4, Arizona 3

Toronto 12, Oakland 0

Chicago White Sox 5, Tampa Bay 1

Minnesota 5, Kansas City 1

MEMORIAL SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)	Scores from Thursday's first round of the \$6 million (£3.86 million) Memorial, being played on the 7,366-yard, par-72 (36-36) Muirfield Village Golf Course:

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**Barangay Ginebra
on a roll, wins
3rd straight**

Enjoying the stride and confidence lacking in its game early in the tourney, Barangay Ginebra still found a way to win and sustain its streak Wednesday despite league leading scorer Mark Caguioa hurting his knee.

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**Saipan Tribune
Sports**

28 SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2008

**Bryant leads Lakers past
Spurs and into NBA finals**

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers dispatched the defending champions, and are headed to the NBA finals for the first time in four years.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nine SSC swimmers off to Guam Champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club members that will compete in this weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships pose in the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. Front row from left, Victoria Chentsova, Abigail Martinsen, Grace Kimball, Andrew Kimball, and Junior Pamaran. Back row from left, Michael Moran, Blair Nicholls, Kai Staal, and Lester Lapuz.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Swim Club will compete in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships this weekend with nine of the association's swimmers leaving for Guam yesterday at 12:30pm.

SSC head coach Michael Stewart said the nine SSC members that will see action this weekend at the Hagatna Pool are Grace Kimball, Andrew Kimball, Abigail Martinsen, Victoria Chentsova, Kai Staal, Blair Nicholls, Michael Moran, Lester Lapuz, and Junior Pamaran.

Grace Kimball will swim in

the 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle events as well as the 50m and 100m backstroke.

Andrew Kimball, for his part, will compete in the 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, 50m and 100m backstroke, and the 200m individual medley.



Martinsen will try her hand in the 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 200m IM, while Chentsova is entered in the 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle and the 50m backstroke.

Staal carries the SSC's best hopes in the 50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, 50m and

100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50 butterfly, and 200m IM.

Seven events also are lined up for Blair Nicholls—50m, 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and 200m IM, while Michael Moran will swim in the 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 1,500m freestyle, and 50m and

100m breaststroke.

Lester Lapuz matches Staal's eight events when he sees action in the 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m freestyle, 200m breaststroke, and 400m IM.

His brother, Junior Pamaran, meanwhile, gets to compete in the 50m, 100m, and 200m

See NINE on Page 27

Boyer hands men's 4.0 title to Camacho

Boyer



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 27th DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships officially concluded Thursday night

Camacho



when the finals of the men's 4.5 singles was finally decided between up-and-coming netter James Camacho and veteran tennis player Gabriel Boyer.

The championship, however, was not settled on the tennis court nor was it decided by

a coin toss.

Boyer, citing his busy schedule as the businessman owns and operates Café at the Park, gladly gave the men's 4.0 singles championship on a silver platter to his nephew Camacho.

See BOYER on Page 27

Korean Dreams' John Reyes leads batting

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



With more than half of the 2008 Budweiser

Saipan Major League season in the books, John Reyes of the Korean Dreams finds himself leading the league in batting percentage.

In other categories, Tyrone Omar of Rock Steady is tops in runs, Jason Reyes of Korean Dreams leads the triples category, Jon Tenorio of San Roque D-9ers is the league's Mr. RBI, and Kim Jae Young of Komoro is without peer in strikeouts.

Four players, meanwhile, are currently leading the doubles derby, while seven players have recorded a homerun in the 2008 season.

Reyes is currently the MAR-PAC-sponsored league's most dangerous hitter, as he makes contact with the ball more than

See KOREAN on Page 27

By MICHAEL WILBON
(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Calling fouls in the NBA has always been absurdly subjective. I once watched from 10 feet away as Robert Parish delivered a closed-fist combination to the face of Bill Laimbeer in a playoff game here in the old Garden, and no foul was called. Not only that, but referee Jess Kersey, looking directly at the contact as well, motioned to Laimbeer to get his butt off the floor and play on. The larger point here is that nobody has ever known what is and what isn't a foul in professional basketball.

The contact Derek Fisher made with Brent Barry with two seconds remaining in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals Tuesday night has caused a great dust storm of controversy, as only the NBA playoffs would have it. And the conversation swerves off the main road, necessarily, to everything that is exciting and tiresome about the postseason. Still, Fisher's contact, given that it came with two seconds left, was not called and should not have been called a foul. Not after Barry put the ball on the floor to avoid the contact. Had he gone straight up and into his shooting motion? Yes, that would have been accepted universally as a legitimate foul.

What constitutes a foul is as subjective as figuring out balls and

See RIGHT on Page 27